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Near East & South Asia

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Israeli-Palestinian Negotiations Resume in Cairo

Palestinian Delegation Arrives

NC1004055295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2125 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 10 Apr (MENA)—Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government in the Palestinian Authority and his delegation arrived in Cairo tonight to take part in a new round of negotiations with the Israeli party, beginning 10 April. In an arrival statement, 'Urayqat said that during this round the two sides will jointly decide on the issues that must be incorporated in the phased agreement. These issues include the redeployment of the Israeli forces, elections, a review of laws, transfer of powers, security, and economic issues. These issues will be discussed in light of the paper the Palestinian delegation submitted. He said they will also discuss the formation of the council the Palestinian side proposed to elect as well as the relationship between the legislative and executive authorities.

Dr. 'Urayqat said that during the latest round held in Jericho a few days ago the Israeli side submitted the names of 1.159 million Palestinian people aged 17 and over, who are residents of the West Bank, including Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip. He said we want an agreement on a comprehensive house-to-house survey to guarantee a correct list of voters. The Israeli delegation to the negotiations is scheduled to arrive in Cairo tomorrow morning.

Israeli Team Arrives

NC1004112295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1105 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 10 Apr (MENA)—The Israeli delegation to the Palestinian-Israeli peace talks, led by Yo'el Singer, director of the Israeli Foreign Ministry's Legal Department, arrived in Cairo this afternoon. A new round of Palestinian-Israeli talks is due to open later today.

Redeployment Talks Resume

JN1004191095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1730 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian-Israeli negotiations resumed in Cairo this afternoon. The talks dealt with the redeployment of the Israeli Army in the occupied West Bank.

The meetings began with a bilateral meeting between the heads of the Palestinian and Israeli sides Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat and Yo'el Singer. This round of talks will continue until tomorrow evening.

Talks on Elections Held

NC1004195095 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Negotiations between the Palestinian and Israeli delegations on Palestinian elections in the autonomy areas opened in Cairo today.

The chairman of the Israel delegation to the talks stated that Israel has decided to continue negotiations with the Palestinians despite the two explosions in Gaza yesterday. He pointed out that halting negotiations would mean rewarding the perpetrators of those explosions.

The Israeli official called on the Palestinian National Authority to take firm measures against those opposed to the peace agreement and to stop attacks against Israelis by extremist groups.

Sha'th Claims Israelis Not Serious

NC1104083395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0750 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Apr (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian Authority [PA], has stated that Israel's policy has not achieved any progress in the field of security. There have been more deaths among the Israelis since the peace process began than in the year before the peace process started.

He said in statements to today's AL-AHRAM that Israeli practices and the policy of group punishment heightened the Palestinian anger and pushed them to join the opposition organizations that carry out operations of violence against the Israelis.

Sha'th added that the peace process is going through a major crisis as a result of Israeli stalling over the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho Agreement. In this regard he noted the presence of thousands of Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons and the continuing settlement-building, as well as the stalling over holding elections and the return of the refugees.

The Palestinian official criticized Israel's lack of seriousness in the current negotiations regarding the Palestinian elections. He said that Israel's objective in these negotiations is not to reach a deadend, nor is it to make any real progress; that way it puts pressure on the PA and on the Palestinian man in the street at the same time.

Inter-Arab Affairs

League Chief Blames Israel for Impasse in Talks

NC1104105595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0924 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Paris, 11 Apr (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, who is visiting Paris, has announced that the peace process is floundering. He remarked that the Arabs pin great hopes on this process because there is no alternative to it.

In remarks to the press on the Arab League's 50th anniversary, 'Abd-al-Majid pointed out that violence is coming from two sides, not one. He was referring to both Israeli and Palestinian extremists.

He stressed that Israel dragging its feet in implementing the agreements that it signed and its political leaders' fear of losing votes in the elections to the opposition Likud bloc has produced the situation that we see today. He noted that the Palestinian people are unable to make progress as everyone had hoped and the aid that they had been waiting for has failed to materialize.

Referring to Palestinian reactions to this situation, he said that Gaza residents are suffering great economic hardships as a result of unemployment and the siege around them.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid asked if such a situation can continue indefinitely without adverse reaction. He answered his own question by declaring: It cannot continue indefinitely. We are travelling on a very dangerous road. I hold Israel responsible for this.

The Arab League secretary general said that Israel should have allowed the Palestinian elections to be held, redeployed its forces, and solved the settlements issue. He declared that the settlements are illegal and an impediment to peace.

He remarked: It is clear that the settlements started by Israel over the past 20 years are the greatest obstacles to peace. They must be removed.

He affirmed that there will be no peace in the occupied Arab territories unless Israel removes the settlement.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that during his meeting yesterday with French President Francois Mitterrand, he conveyed the gratitude and appreciation of the Arab countries for his support for various just Arab causes and his backing for Middle East peace and stability.

He said: "We also wished him well as his presidential term draws to a close."

Asked if there is anything new regarding Libya's Lockerbie crisis, he said that the French position is somewhat different from the British and U.S. position because of France's different judicial system. He added that Libya has expressed a wish to settle the issue peacefully and avoid exacerbating the situation.

He noted that the Arab position, as spelled out by the recent Arab League Council meeting, has not changed and is supportive of the Libyan position.

AHRO Urges Turkish Forces Withdrawal From Iraq

NC0904123395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1055 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 9 Apr (MENA)—The Arab Human Rights Organization [AHRO] has expressed concern over the Turkish military interference in northern Iraq and has demanded an immediate withdrawal of the Turkish forces from Iraqi territories.

A statement released by the Cairo-based organization today said Turkey's continued consolidation of its military intervention, which began on 20 March, and its refusal to respond to the cease-fire calls or set a timetable for withdrawal increase the organization's concern.

The organization added that Turkey's pretexts about its intervention are unjustified, especially because it targets the safe haven area snatched from Iraq under a UN resolution under the claim of protecting the Kurds from Iraqi attacks.

The organization expressed its belief that this intervention violates international law and Security Council resolutions and contravenes all international standards. It called on the Turkish Government to halt its military operations and the serious violations of human rights and to pull out from Iraq's territories immediately.

Palestinian Affairs

Police, Islamic Activists Reportedly Exchange Fire

TA1104050295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Reports from Gaza say that Palestinian police and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad supporters exchanged fire on the streets of Gaza early this morning. A PLO official confirmed that there has been an exchange of fire. There were no reports of casualties. The reports followed a crackdown on radical Islamic groups ordered by PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat. Gaza residents said that dozens of Hamas and Islamic Jihad supporters had taken to the streets in several Gaza neighborhoods when they heard the sound of gunfire.

Yesterday 'Arafat ordered his security forces to take firm measures against Islamic militants after the two suicide bombings which killed seven Israelis and an American citizen. The PLO leader told his Higher Security Council that he had information that Islamic Jihad and Hamas had instructions from abroad to step up attacks on Israelis in Palestinian-controlled areas.

Palestinian security sources have reportedly rounded up some 150 militants. REUTER quotes Palestinian sources as saying that police searched throughout the Gaza Strip for members of the two militant groups, but many of the suspects were not in their homes. A Qol Yisra'el reporter says that Palestinian sources state the arrests are continuing and that another 30 activists were arrested overnight.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0400 GMT on 11 April adds: "Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the PLO's Supreme National Security

Council, headed by 'Arafat, decided yesterday to accelerate the legal proceedings against Hamas and Islamic Jihad leaders, who will be brought before the special state security courts. A senior PA source said that two Islamic Jihad leaders—Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami and Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ziq—were already brought to trial last night. If convicted, they face prison terms."]

For its part, Hamas has put out its latest pamphlet, threatening to step up the violence against Israel if the Palestinian Authority continues to arrest Hamas activists.

Police Storm Hamas Training Center in Strip

JN1104073995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0700 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat left the homeland for Egypt a short while ago for talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on the peace process. For more details, we have on the line colleague 'Adil al-Za'nun, our correspondent in Gaza:

[Begin recording] ['Arif Salim] Good morning, colleague 'Adil.

[Al-Za'nun] Good morning, 'Arif. Good morning to our dear listeners. President Yasir 'Arafat left the homeland for Cairo this morning. He will meet there with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. The two presidents are expected to discuss the latest developments of the peace process in the wake of the two recent incidents in the Gaza Strip. They will also discuss the obstacles hampering the peace process. President 'Arafat will brief the Egyptian president on the current situation in the Gaza Strip, especially after it has transpired that foreign quarters are heightening tension in the National Authority areas. He will also explain to him the Israeli policy of procrastination to evade the implementation of the agreement.

[Salim] What about the latest security developments in the Gaza Strip?

[Al-Za'nun] Brigadier General Ghazi al-Jabali, official in charge of the Palestinian police in the Gaza Strip, said the police stormed a training center belonging to the Hamas Movement in Gaza last night and arrested six citizens. Al-Jabali told the Voice of Palestine that Hamas members fired at the police, slightly wounding a Palestinian policeman in the leg. He said firing at the police indicates that they are outlaws. He added that the National Security Forces and the Palestinian police will continue to pursue the outlawed places.

[Salim] Thank you, 'Adil.

[Al-Za'nun] Thank you. [end recording]

Security Court Sentences Islamic Activists

First Sentence to Hamas Member

TA1004075495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The special court established by 'Arafat as meted out its first prison sentence. The Higher Security Court in Gaza sentenced a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activist who was convicted of various offenses, including undermining the autonomy's security, to 15 years imprisonment. Our correspondent Dani Zaqen reports that Samir al-Jidi was convicted of employing teenagers to perpetrate terror acts and of exploiting Islam to sow discord and civil war.

Islamic Jihad Activist Gets Life

TA1104082295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The PLO's special state security court in Gaza has sentenced another Islamic Jihad activist convicted of harming security; this one was sentenced to life imprisonment. Palestinian sources told our correspondent Dani Zaqen the man is 'Umar Salah, a cleric in one of Gaza's mosques, who was detained after the Bet Lid attack. [passage omitted]

Police Actions Against Militants Detailed

NC1004174595 Paris AFP in English 1618 GMT 10 Apr 95

[By Sakher Abou El-Oun]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, April 10 (AFP)—Palestinian authorities arrested 170 militants and jailed an Islamic Jihad activist for 15 years Monday [10 April] in a crackdown on fundamentalists after suicide attacks which killed seven Israeli soldiers in the Gaza Strip.

Israel buried six soldiers killed when an Islamic Jihad suicide bomber drove his van packed with explosives next to their bus near a Gaza settlement on Sunday in the first of two suicide attacks which left more than 50 people wounded.

A seventh soldier, 20-year-old Sergeant Avraham Arditi from Jerusalem, died Monday from his injuries.

In Gaza City Palestinian police armed with lists of names and wearing bullet-proof vests Monday raided the homes of hardliners from Islamic Jihad and the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) which claimed the two car bombings.

Officials from the two groups, which are trying to wreck the peace process, said 170 were arrested after Israel urged PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat's Palestinian Authority to crack down on militants.

Palestinian Prosecutor General Khalid al-Qidrah said "more than 100" Palestinians had been arrested.

"We arrested them not because they are members of the Jihad and Hamas, but because they have encouraged or supported violence and harmed Palestinian national security and the peace accords," he said.

Those rounded up included three Hamas leaders—'Atif 'Adwan, a professor from Gaza's Islamic university, Shaykh 'Abdallah Nimr and Shaykh Muhammad Abu-Taha, as well as Jihad leader 'Abdallah al-Zaq.

Shaykh Nimr last week accused the Palestinian Authority of acting as a "bodyguard for Jews" in a sermon.

A journalist working for the Palestinian daily AL-QUDS, 'Ala' al-Mashrawi, was also arrested.

'Arafat's self-rule military court also jailed for 15 years Islamic Jihad militant Samir 'Ali al-Jidi, 28, for training children to carry out suicide attacks.

He made the children, aged between 10 and 15, lie in empty graves to get used to the idea of dying.

Hamas gave a defiant response to the crackdown saying: "We are going to launch even bloodier attacks against soldiers and Israeli settlers and we advise them to leave with their suitcases and children."

Islamic Jihad issued a message to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin from its dead suicide bomber Khalid Muhammad al-Khatib, 24, saying "thousands of volunteers are ready to be martyrs in Palestine because they love death just as the Jews love life."

He was being lauded as a hero by family and friends in al-Nusayrat, his Gaza refugee camp.

Despite the attacks Israel resumed self-rule talks with the PLO in Cairo, but Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres warned that a July 1 target date for reaching a deal on extending the fragile self-rule accord had been put in jeopardy.

'Arafat's spokesman reacted angrily to remarks, saying Israel was looking for "excuses" not to implement the agreement.

Amid fears of more attacks, police and Palestinian security services were placed on alert and roadblocks were set up along Gaza roads. Israel banned all Palestinian vehicles from roads round the settlements.

Photographs of the dead soldiers' faces dominated the front pages of Israeli newspapers while state radio only played mournful music and many festivities were cancelled.

Rabin's anti-terrorist adviser Colonel Yigal Pressler urged vigilance following the bombings.

He told Israelis to "watch out for any suspicious parcel, vehicle or behaviour and warn the police as quickly as possible."

Islamic Jihad Warns Authority Against Detentions

JN1004184995 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 10 Apr 95

[Statement issued by the Islamic Jihad Movement in "Palestine" in the wake of the "extensive detention campaign launched by the 'Arafatist authority"; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Since yesterday evening, the limited self-rule authority has been pursuing the mujahidin and supporters of the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine following the heroic operation launched by the heroic martyr Khalid Muhammad Mahmud al-Khatib, 22, from the al-Nusayrat camp in the Gaza Strip. Following that operation, the enemy admitted that six of its soldiers were killed and over 50 Zionists were wounded. More than 150 Islamic Jihad and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] supporters have been detained. Not satisfied with that, the miserable self-rule authority sentenced one of the mujahidin to 15 years in prison on charges of preparing to resist the occupation and instigation against it. This sentence is the first of its kind in the history of the Palestinian people.

In its statement, the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine, adds: Obviously, 'Arafat has lost his mind after he lost his will, turning into a miserable policeman working around the clock and devoting all his energy in the interest of Rabin. This detention campaign will not undermine our mujahidin's resolve and determination to stick to the course of jihad and resistance. We will not give up our weapons or submit to pressures and extortion. Rather, such practices will prompt us to escalate our martyrdom operations. Who can accept that 3,000 settlers in the Gaza Strip be given the right to consume half the water and seize half the territory at a time when 1 million Palestinians are writhing in hunger? How does this world expect us to provide for those settlers the security and stability that our people have been denied because of the occupation and the self- rule's practices? Once again, let everybody understand that we will not accept to guard the enemy's security. We will reject all the agreements of submission that have been signed behind the back of the people. Those agreements will not bind us. Our jihad will continue and our martyrdom operations will escalate. We stress to our nation that combat is our alternative to capitulation and that we are capable of combat as testified by the arena of jihad in Palestine, where the enemy is being dealt painful blows by our mujahidin, who are sowing terror among the enemy ranks and rendering it hysterical and confused.

Concluding its statement, the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine says: Let the nation wake up from its slumber. It should free its will as it sees a small faithful group in Palestine and southern Lebanon effectively confronting the U.S.-Zionist scheme. So what might have happened had our nation's awakening been comprehensive? Lastly, we warn the miserable self-rule authority against its determination to obey and implement the enemy orders. Let it know that the mujahidin who managed to hit the enemy in difficult and impossible areas are capable of responding at the appropriate time and against the appropriate target.

[Signed] The Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine

'Arafat Hints Secret Israeli Army Giving Hamas Arms

BR1004145195 Rome IL MESSAGGERO in Italian 10 Apr 95 p 11

[Interview with Palestinian Authority leader Yasir 'Arafat by Eric Salerno in Gaza on 9 April: "PLO Chief: 'Jerusalem Must Speed Up the Negotiations'"—first paragraph is IL MESSAGGERO introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yasir 'Arafat knew that it would happen again. Sitting at the long table in his office on the shores of the Mediterranean, the Palestinian leader talked to us about his worries over the Islamic terrorists.

[Salerno] What action will you take to stamp them out, Mr. President?

['Arafat] Calling on us to deal with the fundamentalists is not enough. The deterioration in the economic situation and the sealing off of the Territories by the Israelis helps the fanatics to win new recruits over.

[Salerno] Some blame is undoubtedly to be laid at Israel's door, but it was the members of Hamas and Jihad who threw the bombs.

['Arafat] That is true, but you have to look further. We found weapons and explosives manufactured in Israel in the hideout that blew up. What does it mean? Either the terrorists succeeded in buying them from Isreali soldiers and officers, or there is a sort of undercover organization in the Israeli army, like the OAS during the Algerian War. Be that as it may, it is also an Israeli problem. There are undoubtedly many enemies of peace on both sides.

[Salerno] How can the problem be dealt with?

['Arafat] I have been talking from the outset of a peace of the brave, and more courageous steps are now needed to overcome all the obstacles. The Israelis must speed up the negotiations.

[Salerno] The Israelis have offered you an extension of autonomy commencing with the cities of Jenin, Ramallah, and Bethlehem. Why do you not accept?

['Arafat] Everything is fine by me, even proceding by stages, as we did with Gaza and Jericho, but I want a specific schedule. We can set out immediately, but we need to know how and when we will get there.

[Salerno] Should the Gaza settlements be removed at once?

['Arafat] The agreements signed in Washington say that the problem will be solved by negotiation before the end of the third year from the beginning of the process initiated in the American capital.

'Arafat Accuses 'Foreign Parties' of Fomenting Tension

JN1004205795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1930 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian National Security Council held a plenary meeting under President Yasir 'Arafat today. The conferees reviewed the security situation in the National Authority areas. His excellency the president informed the council members that foreign parties have ordered their tools to foment tension and step up terrorism in the Palestinian National Authority areas and to use these areas as a springboard for attacks in order to undermine the Authority's prestige and give Israel additional excuses to engage in shows of political and military arrogance and hinder the holding of elections as well as Israeli withdrawal from the remaining population centers in the West Bank on 1 June [as heard]. The prime objective, the president added, is to promote agreed alternative options. These options, the president maintained, are categorically rejected on national, pan-Arab, and religious grounds. These options have been agreed by these parties and the local parties that are engaged in the plotting.

His excellency the president asked the council members to continue to demonstrate caution and vigilance, and to proceed with the firm measures taken by the Palestinian National Security Forces in implementation of the decision made by the Council of Ministers on Saturday.

For their part, the council members submitted field reports on the security situation, and also on the measures taken, maintaining that there can be no authority on the Palestinian national soil except that of the Palestinian National Authority.

His excellency the president praised these measures, which were met with massive support from the masses, workers, and employers, particularly since their businesses have experienced a recession in terms of economy and livelihood earnings as a result of the irresponsible acts and deliberate tampering planned by these parties to undermine the nascent Palestinian entity and nip in the bud the Palestinian dream.

His excellency the president also appreciated the enormous efforts made by the officers and noncommissioned officers of the National Security Forces to promote security and peace, defend the Palestinian position, and consecrate legitimacy as well as the edifice of the National Authority on Palestinian soil despite scarce resources.

It has been decided to refer to the Higher State Security Court several persons implicated on charges of charlatanism, disruption of public order, tampering with the citizens' security and livelihood, and paralyzing the economic, agricultural, labor, and trade activities. Likewise, it has been decided that the Higher National Security Council will remain in continuous session to address all possibilities on all levels.

Qaddumi Calls For UN Forces in West Bank, Gaza

NC1004160395 Paris AFP in English 1451 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tunis, April 10 (AFP)—A senior PLO official on Monday [10 April] called for UN forces to be sent into the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the wake of two Palestinian suicide attacks that left six Israeli soldiers dead and 54 people wounded.

Faruq Qaddumi, head of the organization's political department, asked Russia and the United States, as co-sponsors of the Middle East peace process, to make urgent representations to the United Nations to send in troops.

He said "urgent and audacious" measures were needed to preserve the peace process and achieve its objectives after the bombings on Sunday.

Qaddumi urged the United States to persuade Israel to fix a timetable for withdrawing its troops from the Gaza Strip and West Bank within a month and hand over security control to a UN force to help supervise preparations for Palestinian elections.

The PLO official also urged Israel to move Jewish settlers outside the Gaza Strip.

Hebron Hamas Leader Seeks To Mediate Cease-Fire With Israel

TA1104070795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 11 Apr 95

[Report by Yoni Ben-Menahem]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Civil Administration and the Israeli security forces are very familiar with the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leader in the Hebron area, who heads one of the important associations in the area and who was one of the Marj al-Zuhur deportees. This leader recently met with Colonel Shalom Goldstein, the military governor of Hebron, and asked his permission to go to Jordan. He said he wanted to meet with Musa Abu-Marzuq and Ibrahim Ghawshah, two senior Hamas leaders, adding that he has devised a plan to end the attacks and the mutual violence and seeks to mediate between the Hamas leaders and Israel. The Hamas leader's idea calls for a temporary cease-fire between Israel and Hamas, during which Israel would stop its pursuit of 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam fugitives and Hamas would stop its attacks—all this as a first step toward negotiations between the two sides.

Col. Goldstein warmed up to the idea and, in his report on the meeting, recommended that the proposal be relayed to the political echelon, but the Hamas leader's request was turned down. The Civil Administration spokesman says the request was rejected because of opposition from security elements.

The Hamas leader from Hebron was not dissuaded. Recently, after the last attack in Hebron in which Nahum Hoss and Yehuda Partosh were killed, he returned to the Civil Administration with a new request: permission to go to the Gaza Strip to meet with Hamas leaders, mainly Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, in order to convince them to accept his plan. This request was also rejected.

Hamas officials say that Israel, in the past, has firmly rejected plans for an agreement with Hamas similar to that between Israel and Hizballah, which removes civilians from the circle of violence.

The Palestinian Authority [PA] was also not very enthusiastic about the proposal. PA spokesmen argue that the PLO is the sole representative of the Palestinian people and Israel's only address. Israeli figures, however, are asking whether an understanding with Hamas should be rejected out of hand in light of the recent wave of attacks and the PA's ineffectiveness in dealing with terrorism.

PA Sources React to Attempts at Cease-Fire

TA1104083695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sources in the Palestinian Authority [PA] say the report on the West Bank Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leader who wanted to go to Jordan to work out a cease-fire between Israel and Hamas indicates that the Hamas headquarters are located in Jordan. A senior PA source told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that this report confirms that Hamas is run from abroad by elements supported by Arab countries. The senior source further said that Jordan has not acted against the Hamas headquarters in Amman so far.

Our correspondent reported this morning that the Shin Bet prevented the Hamas leader's departure. Minister Efrayim Sne says there will be no negotiations between Israel and Hamas as long as Hamas has not abandoned the path of terrorism.

Sources Detail Cooperation Between Islamic Jihad, Hamas

TA1104085895 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 11 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by David Regev]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Islamic Jihad and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] coordinated the timing and locations of the Gaza attacks, Palestinian sources in the Gaza Strip disclosed last night.

The sources said an Islamic Jihad member rammed into the bus near Kfar Darom and a Hamas man carried out the second attack near Netzarim two hours later. The aim was to hit soldiers, policemen, and settlers on the Strip's most sensitive roads. The sources said the coordination began immediately after last week's explosion in Gaza, in which a senior Hamas terrorist, Kamal Kuhil, was killed. It is known that the two organizations exchange arms and information on a regular basis, but this is the first time that there has been operational coordination. The Gaza Strip will not be surprised if it sees such cooperation repeated.

Security sources believe that quantities of explosives are constantly being smuggled into the Strip from Rafah, by sea, from the territories, and by Israeli criminals. The weapons are sometimes hidden in stolen vehicles smuggled into the Gaza Strip. The materiel includes mines from the Sinai, explosives, and antitank missiles. Security sources believe that "as long as the weapons supplies are unsupervised, at least partially, it will be impossible to deal with the problem." [passage omitted]

Failed Hamas Bid on Life of PA Commander Reported

TA1104091595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian sources in Gaza say that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists tried to assassinate General Musa 'Arafat, commander of the Palestinian Authority's [PA] military intelligence, yesterday. The sources say shots were fired at Musa 'Arafat's house in Gaza. One of the guards was slightly wounded in the leg. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that Hamas charges Musa 'Arafat with responsibility for the bloodbath in Gaza several months ago and for the wave of detentions of Hamas and Islamic Jihad activists.

PA Official Urges Quicker Peace To Forestall Violence

NC1104094695 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 11 Apr 95

[Telephone interview with Jamil al-Tarifi, PA member "in charge of coordination with the Israelis," in Ramallah, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo; date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Jundi] Mr. Al-Tarifi, the Palestinian side is certainly reiterating its position that operations like the two recent ones near the Israeli settlements in the Gaza Strip will harm the peace process. How can one find a suitable mechanism to halt all such incidents?

[Al-Tarifi] First of all, I wish to say that such violent acts, the most recent ones and previous incidents, will adversely affect the growth of the ongoing Palestinian national program. Everyone knows that the Oslo Agreement provided for self-rule in Gaza and Jericho first and later the extension of Palestinian national authority to the rest of the West Bank. The incidents referred to above adversely affect this plan. Everyone knows this. Those who plan these incidents constantly declare that their aim is to topple the Oslo Agreement. I therefore believe that the Palestinians and Israelis must hasten the peace process and make it more effective because this is the practical and appropriate response to the violent acts. It goes without saying that we regret every act of violence on our side or inside Israel because we are supposed to have entered a peace process to end the vicious circle of violence and bloodshed. Secondly, the Palestinian Authority [PA] is committed to preventing such incidents according to the agreement. As you know and as everyone knows, however, even Israel has never succeeded in preventing all such incidents. Another point is that several Israeli ministers urged the evacuation of the two settlements of Netzarim and Kfar Darom, asking that the settlers be relocated to the Gush Qatif area pending the final status negotiations. I believe that these two settlements have very few Israeli families who can be easily transferred. They are, moreover, a cause of Palestinian-Israeli friction in the area.

[Al-Jundi] Mr. al-Tarifi, the Palestinians have doubtlessly contacted the Israelis and other parties in an effort to contain these operations that adversely affect the peace process. The Palestinians adopted measures to mitigate the effects of these incidents. Can we throw some light on the Palestinian efforts in this connection?

[Al-Tarifi] As you know, His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat contacted Israeli Prime Minister Rabin, offered his condolences to the victims' families, and gave his personal and the PA's regrets over the incidents and the victims. The Palestinians are also seeking to coordinate with the Israelis to hasten the negotiations. As long as the enemies of peace on both sides declare that their objective is to halt the peace process, Palestinian and Israeli officials must expedite the peace process because this is the appropriate response to the violence. Israel sealed off the Gaza Strip in the wake of the recent operations and the booby-trapped car in Beersheva. Following intensive contacts between ourselves and the Israelis, we succeeded in making an arrangement to transport Gaza's citrus fruits and flowers outside the strip and bring in the necessary food supplies.

[Al-Jundi] It is clear, therefore, that the prompt conclusion of the Middle East peace process, specifically on the Palestinian track, is the only way to end the tide of violence.

[Al-Tarifi] That is right. It is the proper response to the tide of violence.

[Al-Jundi] This is the same thing that President Muhammad Husni Mubarak said during his telephone conversation with Yitzhaq Rabin, President 'Arafat, and the Israeli president.

[Al-Tarifi] Yes, yes. The right response is to expedite the peace process, not as some Israeli officials claim, that the negotiations with the Palestinians must be suspended. This is not a proper response; it is an escape from the peace battle.

[Al-Jundi] Mr. al-Tarifi, these incidents doubtlessly give Israel the chance to seal off the Gaza Strip, halt the negotiations, and slow down the peace process. The peace talks must on the contrary be expedited to forestall the enemies of peace. How can we find a specific mechanism to halt this tide of violence? How does the PA view the situation?

[Al-Tarifi] Dear brother, this tide of violence is not limited to the Gaza Strip or the rest of the Palestinian areas. The tide of violence, particularly the tide of fundamentalism, is a regional problem. It is spread all over the Middle East. First of all, we formerly began a dialogue with these movements. However, it is clear that orders are being sent from abroad to do things to embarrass the PA and halt the political process. I therefore believe that the PA should not be held exclusively responsible for halting the vicious circle of violence. Israel must shoulder part of the responsibility. The other regional countries must shoulder another part of the responsibility. I believe that there should be some sort of regional cooperation against the phenomenon of violence. Not a single country has escaped this problem.

[Al-Jundi] This means that prior to this regional cooperation, it is necessary to introduce a more vigorous inter-Palestinian dialogue.

[Al-Tarifi] Yes, this is right. We constantly call for a more vigorous Palestinian national dialogue to restrict opposition activity to the sphere of peaceful and democratic practices.

[Al-Jundi] Mr. al-Tarifi, thank you.

Adviser Criticizes Israeli Statement on Agreement

JN1004190095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1730 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat, has expressed his astonishment at the remarks made by a spokesman for the Israeli Foreign Ministry who cited [Israeli Foreign Minister] Peres as saying that the two suicide operations in Gaza have made it more difficult to reach agreements on expanding the National Authority areas prior to 1 July.

Abu-Rudaynah said that such statements do not honor the peace process and that they cast doubts on the Israeli intentions which search for pretexts to evade the agreement. He reasserted that speeding up the Palestinian-Israeli agreement continues to be the definite and swift guarantee to achieve security, justice, and peace and to foil the plans of the enemies of peace on both sides.

A spokesman for Israeli Foreign Minister Peres stated that the two explosions against Israelis in the Gaza Strip are obstacles to reaching an agreement on implementing the second phase of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles prior to 1 July.

In press statements today, the Israeli spokesman added that the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations will continue despite the violence in the Gaza Strip.

For his part, Dan Shomron, former Israeli Army chief of staff, stressed the need for the Israel forces not to withdraw from the West Bank during the transitional phase in order to guarantee the so-called security of the settlements. Shomron rejected the calls to evacuate the settlements in the Gaza Strip following the acts of violence.

[Israeli] Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni said that continuing the peace process and its progress are the correct response to the acts of violence.

Algeria

Algerian-Egyptian Higher Commission Meeting Opens

LD1004151395 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The meetings of the second session of the Algerian-Egyptian higher commission opened this morning. Farida Larbi reports:

[Larbi] Today's meeting is the culmination of three days of meetings of the two countries' experts. Experts of three main committees—the economic-financial committee, human resources committee, and the committee for promoting investment—have discussed reports on opportunities for cooperation in various fields, which could promote cooperation between the two countries.

In his intervention at the opening session, our Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri stressed that the joint commission's meetings assumed a special significance because it aimed at bolstering cooperation between Algeria and Egypt. He expressed his hope that the result of the session would contribute to the success of this cooperation.

The Egyptian foreign minister said that the convening of the commission could not be regarded as a routine matter, but a link in a series of efforts by the two countries to give impetus to bilateral relations.

In their report, the experts agreed that the size of trade between the two countries was small, considering the massive capabilities in the two countries. Regarding this, Dembri proposed that the size of trade should be determined and a list made of products that could be imported by the two countries as a prelude to removing excise fees.

[Begin Dembri recording] There are great capabilities. However, it would be essential to determine a plan of action to boost exchanges. There are products on both sides that are in competition and others that complement each other. Therefore, Algeria has proposed that a detailed list be drawn up of the products required in each of the two countries' markets. Then, we would be able to examine the legal aspect of how to exempt these products from fees, and I believe this would be easy. [end recording]

Egyptian Foreign Minister Musa Meets Officials

Meets Zeroual, Conveys Mubarak Message

LD1004131295 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Head of State Liamine Zeroual received Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa at the presidential offices this morning. Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri; Mihoub Mihoubi, diplomatic adviser and official presidential spokesman; and the two countries' ambassadors also attended the meeting.

After leaving the president's office, 'Amr Musa said: I conveyed a message from President Husni Mubarak to President Zeroual concerning bilateral relations. On his part, President Zeroual gave me a similar message for President Mubarak.

He said that at the meeting the significance of the convening of the Algerian-Egyptian higher commission, which endeavors to strengthen cooperation between the two countries in the economic, trade, and cultural fields, was discussed. The Egyptian foreign minister added that prospects for Arab cooperation, the Middle East peace process, and other issues of mutual concern were reviewed. [passage omitted]

Discusses Cooperation With Sifi

LD1004152295 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi today received Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa who is leading an important delegation. The meeting, which was attended by Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri, dealt with the two countries' relations and ways of boosting them in the economic, technological, trade, and cultural spheres.

Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi expressed a firm commitment to improve cooperation between the two countries and urged the private sector and public institutions in both countries to initiate contacts in order to find areas in which Algeria and Egypt can cooperate.

Maritime, Tourism, Crafts Accords Signed

LD1004204695 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Egypt and Algeria have signed agreements in maritime transportation and on cooperation in the sphere of tourism and traditional handicrafts. The agreements were signed this evening by the two countries' foreign ministers after a series of consultations. Sami Nazih reports:

[Nazih] Algerian Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri and Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa this evening signed the minutes of the second session of the Algerian-Egyptian joint commission which includes an agreement on maritime transport and another on cooperation in the spheres of tourism and traditional handicrafts. The agreements will provide the opportunity for both sides to strengthen and promote bilateral relations which will provide a fresh impetus and dynamism to the two countries.

[Begin recording] [Dembri] The commission's meetings are regarded as a good opportunity to continue political consultations between the two countries on all issues of mutual concern on the basis of their joint strategic perception of fruitful cooperation between them in all fields.

[Musa] The convening of the commission at this particular time gives positive signals, the most important of which is the two countries' eagerness to strengthen and improve bilateral relations and to continue progress in all spheres of life so that relations between the two countries can rise to the level aspired by us in the political, economic, cultural, and other fields. [end recording] [passage omitted]

MDA Group Meets Zeroual, Approves of Elections

LD1004135795 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1130 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In the framework of the political dialogue and with a view to the presidential elections, a delegation from the Movement for Democracy in Algeria [MDA] was received at the presidency this morning. Leila Smain reports:

[Smain] The MDA is the seventh political party to be received by President Zeroual. The Movement for Democracy in Algeria, which had first rejected the presidency's invitation, has finally accepted it, like other parties before. The invitation means the discussion of two items on the agenda: All the issues relating to the presidential elections and ways to put an end to the bloodshed.

Concerning the presidential elections, the MDA has intimated that it does not disapprove of the principle of these elections, although it added that this is a unilateral decision.

On the other hand, the MDA has let it be known that it will not discuss the elections and that it favors a global solution to the crisis, that is, the participation of the banned Islamic Salvation Front.

However, the MDA said earlier on that the difficult crisis the country is going through does not allow anyone to impose their choice and that even though one recognizes such a thing may happen, it is bound to fail since it will aim at undermining all attempts to bring about detente. I was obviously quoting the MDA.

MDA National Coordinator on Meeting

LD1004173295 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Today, President Liamine Zeroual met at the presidency a delegation representing the Movement for Democracy in Algeria [MDA], led by the movement's national coordinator, Khaled Bensmail.

Following the meeting, Mr. Bensmail said that the MDA's reading of the events and the nature of the crisis in which the country was living required a comprehensive and serious dialogue without excluding any side.

Bensmail expressed his conviction that the presidential elections were not the most effective solution, particularly in such circumstances, and due to the absence of trust in the state's institutions.

The MDA's national coordinator also said that his movement had submitted proposals, derived from the national accord that called for a movement toward a comprehensive dialogue. [passage omitted]

Zeroual Receives al-Tahaddi Movement Delegation

LD1104102795 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Within the framework of the consultations taking place between the presidency and political parties and organizations on the presidential elections, President of the State Liamine Zeroual at the presidency headquarters today received al-Tahaddi Movement [Challenge Movement] delegation headed by its Secretary General Hashemi Cherif.

Presidency, Berbers Discuss Amazight Issue, Schools Boycott

LD1004221195 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In pursuance of the continued efforts by the state to meet the Amazigth demand, representatives of the presidency of the state received on 9 April at the presidency headquarters a delegation consisting of 23 representatives of the two trends of the Berber Cultural Movement and the associations concerned with the Amazight demand and the boycotting of schools in some parts of the country. During this meeting the representatives of the movements and associations reviewed their demands in written and detailed form.

For their part the representatives of the presidency renewed the will and preparedness of the state to meet the Amazight demand and they tried to determine the various dimensions of the problem which can be summed up as follows:

The Amazight demand per se, the mechanism by which to meet the demand of the Amazigth language, ending the schools boycott and the pedagogic supplementary program, and the consequences of the schools boycott.

First: Regarding the Amazight demand, and with the aim of overcoming the contradictions in how it is characterized, the representatives of the state presidency pointed out the various stances of senior officials in the state and particularly the statement made by the head of state to the council of ministers which met on 5 December last year. This statement highlights the public authorities' full willingness and readiness, since the head of state announced in particular that the Amazight [culture] is an integral part of the Algerian identity and personality—in addition to Islam and Arabism—and that the demand for the teaching of the Amazight language in Algerian schools as a language for all Algerians is legitimate.

Second: Regarding the mechanisms for guaranteeing the Amazight language, the representatives of the state presidency stressed the desire of the public authorities to establish a national council charged with rehabilitating Amazigth as one of the foundations of the national identity and promoting it in the educational and communication systems. The form of the council and how it will be run are to be defined in consultation with the relevant movements and associations. The establishment of this council may take place before the end of June this year.

Regarding these mechanisms, the representatives of the presidency stressed that they should reflect the national desire to promote Amazight [culture] in general and the Amazight language in particular by promoting the participation of the relevant parties, and effective action through these mechanisms and the effective implementation of their results.

Third: Regarding the study boycott and remedial teaching [to make up for lessons missed], the representatives of the state presidency stressed that the public authorities are prepared to organize special catch-up courses and the necessary examinations so that the 1994-95 school and university academic year and essential arrangements will run well. They stressed that these special catch-up courses and examinations naturally should be the subject of consultation between the relevant ministry on the one hand and the teaching staff and parents of pupils on the other. [passage omitted]

Citizens Near Hydrocarbon Areas To Carry 'Pass Cards'

LD0804173495 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ministry of Interior, Local Communities, Environment, and Administrative Reform informs all citizens and foreigners residing in the hydrocarbons exploration and exploitation areas, as well as those passing through the roads and paths of the areas mentioned above, that as of Tuesday 2 May they have to carry transport or pass cards, which will be handed over to them by the police or the national gendarmeries.

The people concerned may contact these services starting from 10 April to collect these documents.

Laghouat Governor Gives Further Details

LD0804223795 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] To give more details on the Exclusion Zone, we have here with us the governor of Laghouat Province. Perhaps the first question to be asked would be the concept of this measure namely, the guarded regions.

[Begin governor recording] First, I would like to explain the framework of the contents of the decision. It comes within the framework of carrying out the instructions of the minister of interior and local authorities issued in May 1994, and dealing with regulating the life of civilians and the civilian police. The ministerial decision, dated 12 February 1995, is centered on two basic points. The first dealing with guarded regions, and the second point deals with travellers who are in transit to and from the Algerian-Libyan border.

Concerning the first point, namely the guarded regions, it is clearly explained in the aforementioned ministerial decision. All workers and citizens who live in these regions and even aliens are required to carry a permit in order to move in these regions quite freely and assuredly.

As for the travellers or those who have a purpose or perhaps family relationship with the workers or the residents in these regions, these people are required to carry a permit for movement—sorry—permit for crossing—these regions that in actual fact come within the framework of complete regulation of these regions. The way some media organs, especially the foreign ones, understood that these regions are prohibited areas, this is not correct. They are regions in which the movement of persons and property is regulated i.e. that every person is able to move about in these regions, but he is required to carry these cards.

Regarding the second point, or the second point in the decision concerning travellers and those who travel to the Algerian-Libyan border, they are compelled to move on two highways specified in the decision and mentioned in the report earlier. The first highway starts from the town of (Oued) toward (Dabdab) via (Amiche) and (Ougla), and so on.

The second road starts from the town of Tugurt via the national highway No. 3 via El Gouk and (Bir el Amda) to (Dabdab). These are the two authorized highways. This is for the purpose of ensuring the security and safety of persons and property. Thus, they allow the brother citizens and foreigners to move about quite freely and assuredly in these regions. [passage omitted]

As for those who live in these regions, all the facilities are available at the security services, who will give them these documents without bureaucratic obstacles. I must say that this decision was supposed to have been enforced in the 1980's because it somewhat regulates the traffic in these regions that are regarded as very sensitive, but have been neglected. This decision was made for the sake of first, ensuring the freedom of persons and stability in the area and, at the same time, securing the installations for which in any case the Algerian people have paid for with enormous amounts of funds, and that today are regarded possibly as the sole source of our exports of oil and gas. [end recording]

Ministry Suspends Programs for Children in France

LD0804214095 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ministry of National Education has just decided to freeze the Arabic educational broadcasts for children of Algerian emigres in France. The reason given for the decision is that these broadcasts have deviated from their original mission: They have not fulfilled the expected objectives. Amar Sakhri has pointed out that a commission comprising the prime minister's office, representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Finance, and the civil service was set up recently in order to examine this matter. A technical commission will soon be going to France to investigate this affair and to find new financial resources for these educational broadcasts in order to reduce their very high hard currency costs. The Arabic educational programs abroad are renewed every four years and they involve 50-75 people, some of whom do not belong to the professional teachers' body.

Blida Religious Chief Dies of Wounds From Attack

LD1004203095 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Ali Abdellatif, chief of the Awqaf and Religious Rites Authority in Blida Province at the Ministry of Religious Affairs, died yesterday of his wounds following a terrorist storming of the religious affairs authority in Blida on 1 April. Terrorists opened fired on two employees, Mencel Abdelkarim and Ali Abdellatif, who were taken to Ain Naaja hospital.

The late Ali Abdellatif, who died yesterday, was 44-years-old. The minister of religious affairs received the news of his death with deep sorrow and offered his family his profound condolences. May God bless the soul of the deceased.

Egypt

U.S. Pledges, Summit's Positive Outcome Viewed

NC1104132395 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 6 Apr 95 p 2

[Editorial: "The Three U.S. Pledges"]

[FBIS Translated Text] After a meticulous examination of the Egyptian-U.S. summit, the statements made by Presidents Mubarak and Clinton at the conclusion of the meeting, observers' comments, and the analyses made by senior Egyptian and U.S. aides, we can say that the Washington summit was one of the most successful meetings between President Mubarak and President Clinton in the past two years.

We can add that the results of the summit will give a strong boost to Egyptian-U.S. relations in all political and economic spheres. This success is not based on identical views between Cairo and Washington because that is simply impossible. Yet it is a success as viewed from the perspective of the ways Egypt and the United States deal with each other and the fundamental rules governing their relations.

The first rule is that Egypt is an Arab, African, and Third World country that is a major regional power in its milieu whose role in its region's issues and problems cannot be ignored. Similarly the United States is the greatest superpower in today's world and because of its political weight and interests, plays the primary and most influential role in our Arab and Middle Eastern region.

The second fundamental rule is that the evident divergence of views between Egypt and the United States does not preclude the existence of a margin of mutual interests. Preserving and expanding this margin is a basic pillar of the Arab world's and the Middle East's security and stability.

The third rule is that these Egyptian-U.S. relations are established in line with Egypt's care to preserve its political independence, thus leaving room for either agreement or divergence of views and positions without adversely affecting the two parties' strategic concerns.

The fourth and final rule is one that is characteristic of President Mubarak and his era. It is illustrated by his care to deal with U.S. leaders with total frankness. He does this not only on moral grounds but also on the basis of honest, objective, patriotic, and struggle considerations. He begins by a scientific study of the issue under discussion, proposing several alternative solutions and positions that are harmonious with the firm requirements of Egyptian national security while also taking into account the legitimate interests of other parties. He takes care to abide by legality and international and regional justice. Based on all this he is ready to discuss issues with the U.S. leaders and any other world leaders.

Based on these four rules, we can survey the already apparent successful results of the Mubarak-Clinton summit despite the difficulty of the issues that the meeting tackled.

Because of limited space, we will focus on two points only that we consider the most prominent and comprehensive. The first point is the triple pledge made by U.S. President Clinton concerning Egyptian national security. During his joint news conference with Mubarak, the U.S. President said that the United States is making three pledges regarding Egyptian national security. The first was to seek to remove all weapons of mass destruction from the Middle East: nuclear, chemical, and biological.

The second is to seek to establish a comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace. The third is to bolster bilateral economic cooperation via economic partnership agreements involving technology transfer as outlined by the Mubarak- Gore initiative.

We believe that these three pledges form the basis of a strategic partnership between Egypt and the United States that we hope will assist us in achieving our great national and pan-Arab objective of building a liberated and strong Egypt. Just as Washington has the obligation to fulfill these pledges, we in Egypt have the task of following up their implementation and enhancing the homeland's ability to benefit in the three spheres.

The second point pertains to Washington's understanding of Egypt's firm position on the extension of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. The United States did not ask Egypt to alter its position that rejects the indefinite extension of the treaty unless Israel also signs. The United States sought to encourage Egypt and Israel to reach a bilateral understanding regarding their differences over the treaty and the Israeli nuclear arsenal. Thus it has become clear that Egypt will oppose indefinite NPT extension and will exert efforts to prevent its passage. It will not, however, withdraw from the treaty if agreement is reached on extending it for a specific period. Israel's nuclear arsenal and Israel's position on the treaty will be the subject of heated negotiations between Cairo and Tel Aviv until the issue is settled.

We believe that in the end the Washington summit will have numerous positive consequences for our region's thorny issues. These consequences will become apparent periodically. President Mubarak was careful to include those thorny issues in the files he took to the meeting: those dealing with the negotiating tracks, Lockerbie issue, regional security, and other difficult problems.

Editor Views Government 'Flexibility' on Treaty

NC1104080995 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 7 Apr 95 pp 4-9

[Article by Chief Editor Makram Muhammad Ahmad: "Mubarak and Clinton-Containment of the Dispute"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Husni Mubarak and U.S. President Bill Clinton will meet today, Wednesday, [as published] at the end of what is perhaps the most important and serious visit Mubarak has paid to the United States. All indications are that the preliminary Egyptian-U.S. talks before the summit succeeded in containing the differences between the two sides over the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Egypt relinquished none of its principled positions, but it showed enough flexibility to help people understand the motives and necessities of the Egyptian position. [passage omitted]

Although the U.S. Administration admits that Egypt's position is fair and its argument clear, it believes that Egypt's approval of the Treaty should not be linked with Israel's position, because world peace should not be restricted or linked with special regional circumstances that may change.

This is the argument offered by the U.S. Administration, and it is supported by an extremely hardline position by Congress in both its houses. A group of senators presented a bill demanding that all parties that are signatories to the Treaty (173 states) vote for unconditional and indefinite extension, considering any opposition to this a clash with basic U.S. interests. The senators—Republicans and Democrats alike—also give absolute backing to the U.S. President to ensure unconditional and indefinite extension of the pact.

Egypt succeeded in containing and besieging the dispute despite attempts by influential groups to get Congress and the U.S. Administration to antagonize Egypt, "which has so far received $40 billion in U.S. aid but refuses to accept the extension of the Treaty, an extension that is a basic U.S. interest."

Egypt did not change its principled position; it explained, with clear and straightforward logic, that it does not oppose extending the Treaty, but opposes the bizarre situation of Israel's nuclear program. In all the preliminary meetings before the Mubarak-Clinton summit the Egyptians were clearly determined to dispel the feeling that there is a crisis in U.S.—Egyptian relations over the Treaty.

Egypt presented its position in a clearer and more specific way:

1. Egypt has no problem with the United States over the Treaty. Indeed, Egypt, in principle, does not object to an indefinite extension of the pact. After all, Egypt was among the first countries to join the pact (it joined on 1 July 1968 and the Egyptian Parliament approved membership in 1981). Egypt has taken an important initiative bearing President Mubarak's name, calling for a new Middle East free of all weapons of mass destruction. But Egypt's problem lies in the existence of an Israeli nuclear program that is subject to no international supervision. This program poses a threat to the security of Egypt and the Arab countries. The Demona nuclear reactor is located only 40 km from Egypt's border, 4 km from Jordan's border, and 60 km from Saudi Arabia. It therefore threatens the security of the region. Israel's unilateral possession of a deterrent nuclear weapon that neither Egypt nor any other Arab country can counter gives Israel a huge privilege, reflected in unequal relations with its neighbors and upsetting the conditions for equal and balanced security for all sides.

2. New circumstances have forced Egypt to adopt a clear position stressing the need for Israel to join the Treaty. The states that are signatories to the pact, including Egypt, are being invited to a conference in New York from 17 April to 12 May in line with Article 10 of the Treaty, which calls on member states to meet 25 years

from the date the Treaty came into force to discuss its extension for an indefinite period or for specific successive periods.

The decision to hold the conference made it necessary for Egypt to ask that Israel join the Treaty, because the indefinite extension of the Treaty and the exclusion of Israel's nuclear program from international inspection under the Treaty's indefinite extension would negate its universality and globality and even affect its credibility, because the question would then be: Why should only Israel enjoy this abnormal exclusion?

3. While Israel had good reasons in the past to maintain a nuclear deterrent because of the conditions of war in the Middle East and its hostile relations with its Arab neighbors, peace process developments require Israel to think seriously about joining the Treaty, because Israel's possession of the nuclear deterrent and the exclusion of other countries in the region could make other countries think of setting up their own nuclear programs, thus opening the way for a nuclear armament race that would threaten the stability of this vital part of the world.

4. We do not want Israel to join the Treaty today but want to enter into serious negotiations with it to agree on specific steps that ensure it will join some time in accordance with a timetable that goes hand in hand with the steps toward completing the peace process.

This means that Israel must abide by clear and specific measures that start with the signing of peace agreements with the other confrontation states, Syria and Lebanon, and take another step in the same direction when the Arab countries declare an end to the state of war with Israel so that Israel's joining the Treaty would become a reality before there are any new regional arrangements organizing relations of regional cooperation in the region. Such cooperation among the Middle East countries and peoples cannot be concluded without equitable and balanced security for all parties. Regional cooperation means everyone's security before roads, communications, and bridge projects.

5. Egypt is not fabricating a crisis, is not opposed to the Treaty, and is not agitating to impede its process; what Egypt wants is for the world to understand that there is a special situation in the Middle East that should be considered. [passage omitted]

6. Egypt is open-minded and its stance is not one of rejecting the Treaty, because it knows the Treaty will become effective when the majority approves it. It is enough for 87 out of the 173 countries to approve it to make it effective. This quorum was probably reached when five Latin American countries joined the list of those who approve its extension. Egypt does not reject the extension; it has several options. It is waiting for the New York conference before adopting the right position in light of the available options. Egypt could vote for, vote against, abstain from voting or attending, or declare its acceptance but with specific reservations. But the choice of any of these positions relies on the steps that Israel would take to convince Egypt of its serious intention to join the Treaty.

What is needed now is to have all the concerned parties exercise their goodwill to convince Israel of the need to respond to Egypt's fair demands. It is not enough for Israel to say that it is willing to issue a pledge committing itself to saying it will be the first country to refrain from using nuclear weapons. It is not enough for it to give replies that imply vague and elusive promises; it should accept serious negotiations that aim to agree on a timetable that ensures it will join the Treaty some time. [passage omitted]

The Egyptian position had to show some flexibility while maintaining a firm commitment to the principled position, especially as it has made gains that cannot be belittled, such as making Israel's nuclear program an issue to be negotiated for the first time. Israel refused to discuss it in the past. Israel's joining the Treaty is now linked with the establishment of a new regional order that includes all the peoples of the Middle East. [passage omitted]

Radio Examines Mubarak's U.S Trip, Stance on NPT

NC0904123595 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1005 GMT 9 Apr 95

["News analysis" by 'Abd-al-Hamid Sharif]

[FBIS Translated Text] Political and media observers are unanimous that President Husni Mubarak's recent visit to the U.S. capital has been successful by all standards through his numerous meetings with U.S. Administration officials and many members of Congress. These meetings were crowned by one between Presidents Mubarak and Clinton on Wednesday.

In this meeting, President Mubarak presented everything concerning bilateral, regional, and world issues of mutual interest to both countries. Foremost of these were the efforts to develop economic and trade ties between Egypt and the United states under the partnership agreement signed between the two countries. The agreement aims at increasing Egyptian exports to the United States and provides for the two countries' businessmen to embark on more positive activity in setting up joint projects and transferring technology and environment-protection ventures.

One of the most important topics discussed by Presidents Mubarak and Clinton was the extension of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. Egypt has stressed its firm stance not to agree to an indefinite extension as long as Israel fails to sign the treaty.

At the same time, Egypt supports the NPT in its capacity as one of the 18 states that signed the treaty when it first came into force. But Egypt maintains its stance in the context of the call to render the Middle East an area free of weapons of mass destruction so that there will a balance of power between the region's countries.

The Egyptian-U.S. talks also dealt with the efforts to advance work on the Syrian-Israeli track and to expedite the second part of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles. President Mubarak stressed the importance of this so that the region will not slide into a destructive conflict because the Palestinian issue is the core of conflict in the Middle East.

Mubarak Receives Phone Call From al-Qadhdhafi

NC0904052195 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Husni Mubarak received a telephone call this evening from brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, who congratulated him on his safe return from his recent trip to the United States.

They reviewed several regional and Arab issues of mutual interest.

Oil Ministry Issues Statement on Cooperation With Syria

NC0804121795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1145 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 8 Apr (MENA)—A Petroleum Ministry press release today said Petroleum Minister Dr. Hamdi al-Banbi's talks with Syrian Minister of Oil and Mineral Resources Dr. Nadir Nabulsi dealt with bilateral relations in all spheres of the petroleum industry and developing it.

The statement added that the participants discussed final details of establishing a Syrian-Egyptian company for petroleum services, in addition to discussing the activity of the Egyptian drilling company operating in Syria.

The statement said the participants also discussed ways to consolidate and develop cooperation between the two countries. An agreement was reached to continue cooperation in testing samples of rocks and crude oil extracted from Syrian oil wells in the Egyptian petroleum sector laboratories, which enjoy high technical capability in light of the test results on samples carried out for the Syrian side.

The Petroleum Ministry statement noted that the Egyptian and Syrian ministers agreed to cooperate in the use of natural gas, to amend provisions of previous agreements, and to train Syrian cadres on various oil activities in the Egyptian petroleum sector training centers.

The Syrian minister expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Egyptian leadership and Government for continued support of the fraternal relations between the two countries and his great pleasure in meeting the Egyptian minister. He stressed the need to continue consultations and coordination between the two countries in all fields of petroleum industries.

The Syrian minister, accompanied by Dr. al-Banbi, attended a ceremony to inaugurate natural gas companies in Madinat al-'Ashir Min Ramadan.

NPUG Denounces Turkish Invasion of Northern Iraq

NC1004174395 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 5 Apr 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Progressive Unionist Grouping [NPUG] has declared its denunciation of the tyrannical Turkish invasion of northern Iraq in violation of international law, the UN charter, and international legitimacy. The party appealed to the Arab League, all governments, and nongovernmental organizations to protest against that barbaric aggression against Iraq's national sovereignty and the Kurdish masses.

The NPUG condemned America's encouragement of the Turkish aggression as well as the Arab regimes that failed to lift a finger to stop that aggression.

The party reiterated its backing for the fraternal Kurdish people, who have historic links with the Arab nation. The NPUG statement was made by the party's media official, Dr. Mahir 'Asal.

Writer Criticizes Iraq's Detention of Americans

NC1004170995 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 6 Apr 95 p 4

[Article by Muhammad 'Abdallah from the "Foreign Policy" column: "Arab Sins"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Two Americans enter southern Iraq, deliberately or by mistake, and Baghdad sees that the punishment they deserve is a swift trial for a few hours, after which each of them is sentenced to eight years in prison. But when tens of thousands of Turkish Army troops advance 10 kilometers into northern Iraq, supported by tanks and aircraft, the blatant invasion gets no response from Baghdad except a statement by the Iraqi Foreign Ministry demanding the withdrawal of the Turkish troops. While it is at it, the Ministry notes in its statement that the situation the allied troops created in the area brought about the lack of security that threatened Turkey. The matter passes without the Iraqi forces' firing a single bullet at the Turkish troops, who have a free hand in hundreds of square kilometers of Iraqi territory. Iraq did not even threaten to use its armed forces, even for appearance' sake.

These strongly contrasting lines of conduct confirm that the regime in Baghdad is still waging the wrong battles at the wrong time in spite of the lessons of the invasion, lessons whose bitterness is still felt by millions of Iraqis and Arabs.

Considering that Kuwait persistently accuses Iraq of detaining hundreds of Kuwaiti nationals since the invasion, I reckon that it would have been better for the Iraqis to return these two lost or conniving Americans to their government immediately, after warning others against violating the country's borders. This would have made it possible to expunge some of the guilt Iraq bears for the invasion of Kuwait, when it detained thousands of foreign nationals and used them as human shields at Iraqi military bases. Being inhuman and uncivilized, that act prepared world public opinion to accept a crushing military strike against Iraq.

The two Americans could have been returned to their country across the Kuwaiti border and handed over to the Kuwaiti authorities, above all others, as a sign of respect for Kuwait and its new borders, even if Iraq does not approve of these borders. After all, everything is negotiable sooner or later.

As far as northern Iraq is concerned, it was completely unacceptable for Baghdad to knuckle under to the Turkish invasion, even if Turkey was the first and latest country in the world to demand the lifting of the sanctions on Iraq. Principles are indivisible and land is neither for sale nor rent. It is the integrity of principles that begets reverence and deserves respect.

Such sins, and many others, hurt us badly time and again. But who is perfect?

Parliament Endorses Iranian, Russian Debt Settlement

NC0904073095 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The People's Assembly will resume its meetings this morning under the chairmanship of Dr. Ahmad Fathi Surur.

In its session yesterday, the assembly ratified several draft bills authorizing the petroleum minister to sign contracts with the Egyptian general petroleum authority and several foreign companies for oil prospecting in some areas in Egypt.

The assembly also endorsed two reports from the joint committee stemming from the Economic Affairs and the Foreign Relations Committees on the approval to settle the debts between Egypt and Iran and the Russian Federation.

'Vanguards of Conquest' Members Indicted

NC1004154395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1505 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 10 Apr (MENA)—An indictment statement was issued today for 42 Islamic extremists involved in the case of the Vanguards of Conquest Organization.

The indictment includes charges of joining an organization established in violation of the law to overthrow the regime by force and through terrorist methods.

It also includes the charges of possessing unlicensed firearms and explosives, forging official documents, and conspiring to murder.

The defendants were accused of killing four citizens, including a conscript to steal his gun, and wounding a number of others. They also robbed a number of goldsmith shops to finance their plots.

The Supreme Military Court is expected to try the case this week.

Three Injured in Airliner's Forced Landing

NC1004163195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1405 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 10 Apr (MENA)—The pilot of a Luxor-bound Egypt Air flight Airbus-300 today succeded in conducting a forced landing safely after a fire broke out in the left engine due to a tire blow out.

Three of the 260 passengers were slightly injured when they rushed to the emergency doors.

[Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1455 GMT adds the following: "An official source in the Ministry of Interior has stated that the fire brigades at Cairo airport today succeeded in controlling in a matter of minutes the fire that broke out on an Egypt air flight. The source added that the fire stopped the plane's left engine completely. Passengers were disembarked until another flight could be arranged for them. Legal measures have been taken in regard to the accident."]

Police Sentry Wounded by Unidentified Gunmen

NC1004153495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 10 Apr (MENA)—Jirjis Bishai, a regular sentry, sustained a bullet wound today when unidentified gunmen fired at him in the village of Munsha'at al-Nasr in Markaz Abu-Qurqas in al-Minya.

An official source at the Ministry of Interior has stated that the sentry was taken to hospital for treatment.

Leading cadres in the al-Minya Security Directorate and the various detective agencies moved to the scene of the incident, while the police continue their search of the culprits.

The prosecution has been notified to launch an investigation.

Sudan

Rebels Accuse Government of Violating Cease-Fire

AB1004155595 Paris AFP in English 0941 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nairobi, April 10 (AFP)—The rebel South Sudan Independence Movement-Army

(SSIM/A) on Monday [10 April] accused the Sudanese Government of violating its own ceasefire by attacking SSIA forces on several fronts in the Sudanese civil war.

In a statement faxed to AFP, SSIA leader Riak Machar said that despite a unilateral ceasefire declared by Sudanese head of state 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir on March 28, which was reciprocated by the rebels on April 3, Khartoum had unfortunately failed to respect it.

Areas attacked by Khartoum forces included Fangak in Central Upper Nile on March 29 and Maiwut in Eastern Upper Nile, where fighting continued until April 8, Riak said.

Government forces also attacked Lafon in Eastern Equatoria on March 31, but were beaten back by SSIA defenders, resulting in the capture of 69 enemy military personnel, including the commanding officer Colonel Khalid Mohamed Osman, two T-55 tanks and other military equipment.

Bulich in Northern Upper Nile was also attacked by government forces on April 2, Riak said, and accused the government of threatening to violate the ceasefire only after the capture of its military personnel and hardware in Lafon.

The ceasefire was brokered by US former President Jimmy Carter to enable the Carter Centre's Global 2000 project to conduct a campaign to eradicate Guinea-Worm and river blindness diseases from the region.

On April 7, Khartoum accused the rebels of violating the ceasefire and of attacking its forces at various fronts in southern Sudan between March 30 and April 6.

These included an attack on and looting of a government convoy heading from the southern regional capital Juba to Kapoeta, Khartoum said in a statement released here on Friday.

But Riak said on Monday that there was no access road from Juba to Kapoeta that passes through Lafon, the centre of the attack on the military convoy, and accused Khartoum of violating the ceasefire terms as outlined by Carter, which did not include reinforcement of troops with arms and ammunition in government-controlled garrisons.

"Succinctly, this is not the only violation of the ceasefire by the National Islamic Front regime's forces. As far as we know on record, the attack on Lafon was the fourth violation in the SSIM/A controlled areas," Riek added.

The southern rebels have been battling Khartoum forces since 1983 to end domination of the mainly Christian and animist south by the Moslem Arabised north.

Bahrain

Reportage on Security 'Incidents,' Measures Taken

Amir Briefs 'Notables' on Situation

JN1004161095 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1450 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Manama, 10 Apr (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain; His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, prime minister; and His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahrain Defense Force, received in Manama today a number of Bahraini notables and key figures who they briefed on the recent incidents in the country and the measures taken to entrench security and stability.

All the attendees expressed to his highness the amir of Bahrain their full support for all that will entrench security throughout this cherished homeland. [passage omitted]

Amir: Priority Given to Stability

JN1004202295 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Apr 95

[Report by by Huda al-Husayni in Manama]

[FBIS Translated Text] During a meeting with a number of journalists, Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah has stressed that the Bahraini Government's first priority is maintaining stability, and that no issue should be given priority over security and the atmosphere of the one Bahraini family which rejects violence.

The Bahraini amir called on journalists who travel to Bahrain to convey a true picture of what they really see—that there are no riots or disturbances. He stressed that national dialogue is continuing, and that it has never stopped. He rejected the issue of conditions and pressures. The Bahraini amir praised the Gulf Cooperation Council member states which maintain maximum cooperation among them, as he put it.

He said that Bahrain has not demanded any specific stand from any state. The Bahraini amir said that relations among people should be based on humanitarian principles and not on any religious bases.

Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah reiterated that the Bahraini Government is proceeding with its program, which is topped by the issue of stability in Bahrain. He said: We are very patient. Regarding unemployment, he said: All states suffer from this problem. However, there are only 4,000 unemployed in Bahrain, and the government seeks to secure jobs for them.

In another development, a senior Bahraini official told Radio Monte Carlo that the Bahraini Government will issue a statement within the next two days on the results of investigations with the detainees who, according to the Bahraini official, confessed that they were trained in Iran and were instructed to execute specific plans in Bahrain.

Suspects Confess to Foreign Links

JN1004170195 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 5 Apr 95 p 1

["Exclusive" report]

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-WATAN has learned from exclusive sources in Manama that investigations conducted with a group of agitators in Bahrain led to a confession by a number of them that they stored incendiary materials for use in acts of sabotage.

Moreover, confessions made by a number of suspects revealed their connection with foreign quarters that supply them with "ideology and materials."

AL-WATAN also learned that the competent Bahraini authorities have released some detainees after investigations showed that they were not involved.

The sources said that the official Bahraini stand calls for stopping violence and sabotage before anything else. This stand supports a popular trend, especially since public facilities and schools have been subject to acts of sabotage.

Minister Claims Situation 'Stable'

JN1104111095 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1945 GMT 10 Apr 95

[Interview with Information Minister Tariq al-Mu'ayyad by Huda al-Husayni in Manama; date not given; from the "Panorama" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Husayni] Your Excellency, can we say now that the situation in Bahrain has settled down and returned to normal?

[Al-Mu'ayyad] Thanks be to God, we can say that the situation is stable. However, it is important to stress that the situation was in no time worrying to a frightening degree. The authority has never lost control of the situation at any point of time. We can safely say that the daily life did not stop, not even for a few seconds whether in public utilities, commercial centers, or industrial establishments. The situation is now stable as ever.

[Al-Husayni] But we have heard that, for example, some villages were closed and some facilities were vandalized.

[Al-Mu'ayyad] Absolutely, villages should be protected and security forces try to protect these villages in the event of any attacks. However, I believe that everybody knows that the people of Bahrain are one people and none of them harms the other. In the event of any attempt to attack anyone, all try to stand by him. All of us should be on the alert as to halt those who try to carry out acts of subversion. In the final analysis, the people of Bahrain will realize that protecting villages serves the public interest and the interests of all people.

[Al-Husayni] You have accused Hizballah of having a group in Bahrain. Hizballah denied this. What is your opinion?

[Al-Mu'ayyad] We have not accused anybody. I believe that we have to leave things until results of investigation appear, especially confessions which could be made, God willing, following interrogating all persons who were involved in these incidents.

[Al-Husayni] Are there many detainees?

[Al-Mu'ayyad] Naturally, the number of detainees fluctuates according to incidents. However, in most cases when investigation in any incident is completed a great number of detainees is released.

[Al-Husayni] Is the number [of detainees] still large?

[Al-Mu'ayyad] I do not think so.

[Al-Husayni] Why do you think Bahrain was targeted by instigating unrest?

[Al-Mu'ayyad] Of course, I believe that the entire Gulf is targeted. I think we should not ask why Bahrain is targeted. However, the stability Bahrain enjoys, thanks be to God, can be the reason for this. Bahrain is one family whose members love each other. Another reason could be that some countries believe that the poor financial resources of Bahrain would weaken the status of the state and the conditions of people. However, events have proven that this is not true.

[Al-Husayni] Some are accusing Iran of instigating certain people in Bahrain. Is this government's viewpoint as well?

[Al-Mu'ayyad] The government has not accused anyone and does not want to accuse anyone. It will present all facts to people once all the persons who were summoned are interrogated in order to find out the motives of the incidents that took place in Bahrain.

[Al-Husayni] We notice that the U.S. Administration and officials exaggerate things very much. For example, they prevent their nationals from coming to Bahrain or warn them against coming close to gatherings of people in Bahrain. What is the reason for this?

[Al-Mu'ayyad] Thus far what the Americans have said is that their nationals should be on the guard. We always advise people to be on the guard under all circumstances. Therefore there are no fears. However, it could be that those who were apprehensive of these things believed that there was a source of danger to them [Americans]. But all the statements that were issued have confirmed that no foreigners were targeted in Bahrain. We would confirm that the nature of the Bahraini people prevents them from assaulting people. During all these incidents no person, whether Bahraini or of other nationality, who was not involved in the incidents was injured or harmed.

[Al-Husayni] Some opposition elements abroad say the government should begin a national dialogue with the genuine opposition and not with those who the government has appointed as opposition. Is this true?

[Al-Mu'ayyad] First, dialogue between the government and the people has not stopped since the beginning of the history of political dialogue in Bahrain. I believe Bahrain has established a united family spirit, and that dialogue has been going on for decades with the aim of effecting development for the better. The government is not against the opposition, but is choosing those who are wise and efficient from various strata of the society. The whole society should be represented in all its sectors, be they economic or scientific. I also believe the people of Bahrain are interested in the affairs of their country, their relatives, and their citizens. We believe those who speak are speaking in the name of the homeland and its people.

In fact, being a small country, we in Bahrain do not differentiate between government employees, public sector employees, or ordinary citizens who run their own businesses. We do not say there is a party or one side against another. There is no opposition in the real sense of the word. There is a one family that is exerting its efforts. This family has been able to solve all the Bahraini people's problems for many years. Praise be to God, this family has been able to resist all the saboteurs from abroad at various times and was able to work with the government to find a means of prosperity for all the people of this country.

[Al-Husayni] In your opinion, who finances the opposition abroad?

[Al-Mu'ayyad] We say that there is no opposition abroad. There are a few individuals who can talk, have a fax machine, have a typewriter. I believe there is no real opposition. The people of Bahrain care about their problems. We care for their problems. Problems will not be solved except inside Bahrain.

[Al-Husayni] Inside Bahrain, there are those who demand a return to the Constitution. Is this valid?

[Al-Mu'ayyad] We have not stopped preserving the Constitution because it has a spiritual value. The spirit of the Constitution exists, namely, cooperation in the government and among the people. Moreover, we must look at the region and our position in this region. There are many things we cannot change; we cannot be outside the region that surrounds us. It is part of our tradition to grow in a normal manner with time and benefit from our experience and the experience of others. I believe everybody knows Bahrain is developing for the better and will continue its advance, albeit with regular steps and without making any jumps, especially those jumps that are inspired abroad.

[Al-Husayni] There has been talk about the high unemployment in Bahrain. Blame is laid on foreign workers. How will you tackle this issue?

[Al-Mu'ayyad] This can be done in many ways. The most that can be said is that the state and the Labor Ministry have been endeavoring to devise programs for Bahrainization and training, and to work hard to fund new jobs in industry or other services. I believe the immense progress in all sectors confirms the success of this experiment. However, it is well known, not only in Bahrain but in all the Gulf states, that there is a drop in government revenues because of the drop in oil revenues. I believe a small state with a small income like Bahrain will see a larger share of this drop. The government sector feels this before the others. Yet, there is optimism that there are many projects, that there is a possibility of growth in the private sector that could accommodate Bahraini graduates, and to allow for accommodating more in the future, given that we are considering many studies to benefit from the experiments of others and find jobs for the sons of Bahrain.

[Al-Husayni] Is there anyone abroad trying to ignite a religious war in Bahrain?

[Al-Mu'ayyad] I do not know if such individuals exist but I am certain this will not happen because the people of Bahrain are one family. The members of this family are well-connected. I believe that any sort of differences among the members of this family will be rejected.

[Al-Husayni] In Bahrain, you are preparing to receive two world conferences. Is this an answer to what is said abroad that the conditions in Bahrain are unstable, or is it that life goes on normally in Bahrain?

[Al-Mu'ayyad] The two conferences were planned more than six months ago. I believe we can say life is normal, that conferences continue as usual. The basic aim behind these two conferences and behind all other conferences is to find a means of livelihood for the Bahraini people. I believe normal growth in the tourist sector and services have created great job opportunities for the Bahraini people and I believe that with the current and future stabilities, these opportunities will continue so that the Bahraini people will benefit.

Kuwait

Iranian Speaker Continues Visit, Meets Officials

Views Expanding Ties With Amir

LD1004113295 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, who is in Kuwait, met the Amir of Kuwait today. Let me draw your attention to a telephone report sent by our correspondent a few moments ago:

[Unidentified correspondent] Greetings dear viewers of the midday bulletin of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran. On his second day in Kuwait, Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri met the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir Al Sabah this morning. At the meeting, ways of expanding ties between Iran and Kuwait and other important regional and international issues were discussed.

Nateq-Nuri explained the Islamic Republic of Iran's positions with regard to regional developments and international issues and, stressing Iran's friendly stance toward the countries of the region, he said: The Islamic Republic of Iran's stance during the Persian Gulf war was also based on Iran's friendly policy on regional issues.

The Amir of Kuwait, for his part, underlined that Iran and Kuwait shared the aim of creating unity and solidarity between the countries of the region and spoke of bilateral cooperation as an important element assisting the establishment of stability and security in the region.

Nateq-Nuri also received a group of lecturers from Kuwait University at his residence this morning. At this meeting, the need for scientific and cultural cooperation between the two countries was stressed and the lecturers from Kuwait University expressed their interest in scientific and research cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran. Nateq-Nuri spoke about Iran's research and educational capabilities and conveyed the willingness of our educational and research centers to exchange and train lecturers and students.

Meets Parliament Speaker

LD1004192095 Tehran IRNA in English 1808 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kuwait, April 10, IRNA—Speaker of the parliament of Kuwait Shaykh Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz Sa'dun told the visiting speaker of the Islamic consultative assembly of Iran Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri that the two countries now had an excellent opportunity for helping their relations bear fruit.

He said that during his visit to Tehran last year he had personally felt the sincere intention of the Iranian authorities to broaden their relations with all regional countries and especially with Kuwait.

The Kuwaiti official also appreciated Iran's position towards the occupation of Kuwait by Iraq in 1990, saying that the fact would ever be recalled in the history of Kuwait. [sentence as received] The Majlis speaker of Iran told the Kuwait official that because the Persian Gulf had 70 per cent of the world's total oil reserves, the enemies of Persian Gulf states aim at pushing the region into a chaotic state in order to sell arms and ensure their eventual foothold in the region.

Nateq-Nuri reminded Sa'dun that Iran was a signatory to the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) and was a friendly neighbour to all regional countries. He added that the Persian Gulf states should not allow themselves to be deceived by hostile propaganda of the United States. The Iranian official said if the Americans had bona fide intentions in the first place they would try to dispossess the Zionists of their nuclear weapons rather than raise a ballyhoo over threats that do not really exist. At the end of their meeting the Iranian official was led along a visit to the various parts of the parliamentary compounds of Kuwait.

Military, Civil Pact Signed With U.S. Firm

LD0804153095 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1350 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 8 Apr—The Ministry of Finance signed here today a memorandum of understanding with the American TCOM company, which stipulates that the firm will invest $11.9 million under the offset program.

For the Kuwaiti side, the memorandum was signed on behalf of the ministry's undersecretary by Ahmad Hamza al-Faylakawi, assistant undersecretary for public storage affairs; for the American side by Chairman of the firm James Bitounti.

The above-mentioned sum constitutes 30 percent of the value of the offset program of the government contract that the firm signed April 1993 with the Kuwaiti Defense Ministry, which was worth $40 million to supply the Kuwaiti Army with a "balloon" system for observation, surveillance, and radar operations.

Sources at the U.S. firm told KUNA that the above-mentioned sum will be invested to set up a local company called "Middle East Supplies and Services Company," which will render maintenance and training services in the military and civil fields. [passage omitted]

Judicial, Legal Agreement Signed With Tunisia

LD0904152295 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1300 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 9 Apr—The state of Kuwait and the Tunisian Republic today signed a judicial and legal agreement covering arbitration in the commercial fields and implementaion of civil, commercial, and personal status judgements.

The Kuwaiti side was represented by Justice Minister Mishari Jasim al-'Anjari and the Tunisian side was represented by Justice Minister Sadok Chaabana.

An authoritative source told KUNA that the agreement falls within the framework of the mutual desire between the two countries. [passage omitted]

Acting Prime Minister: No Dissolution of Assembly

LD1004181095 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1718 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 10 Apr, KUNA—Today, Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah affirmed that "there will be neither a dissolution of the National Assembly nor an infringement on the Constitution."

He added, "I stress that we have never at any time thought of dissolving the National Assembly nor the circumstances that would prompt us to consider the suspension of parliamentary life have arisen."

Shaykh Sabah told journalists after his meeting with Ahmad al-Ju'an, chairman of the National Assembly's legislative and legal affairs committee, that "cooperation between the executive and the legislative powers will continue and there will be other meetings on the sidelines with other members of parliament in order to reach the best ways to serve the country's interests." [passage omitted]

Replying to a question about the government request of an explanation of Article 71 of the Constitution from the Constitutional Court, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad told the journalists "I wish you would not turn it into a crisis. However, you journalists are trying to create crises. There are no crises between us as National Assembly and government," he said. [passage omitted]

Qatar

Iraqi Oil Minister Jawad Begins 4-Day Visit

Confirms International Oil Contracts

JN1004203695 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1846 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Doha, 10 Apr (INA)—Iraqi Oil Minister Safa' Hadi Jawad has confirmed that Iraq has signed contracts worth billions of dollars with international firms granting them oil deals.

Jawad told AL-'ARAB newspaper here that more contracts with other parties are being prepared for signing.

Concerning the talks between Iraq and the French Total Company to invest in some oil fields, Jawad noted progress in this direction. He said talks are progressing very well and in a satisfactory manner for both parties.

Jawad ruled out any side effects of Iraq's return to the world oil market or any jolt to the market because of the Iraqi quota. Noting that Iraq respects the OPEC quotas, he said that Iraq is a founding member and is eager to maintain the structure of the oil prices and wishes to maintain OPEC.

He stressed that neither Iraq nor any OPEC member state has any interest in the disintegration of OPEC or in destabilizing oil prices, since causing the oil prices to drop directly harms the interests of member states.

He underlined OPEC's role in ensuring its safety and the interests of its members. He said it is logical that OPEC should convene after Iraq's return to the oil market to redistribute quotas in light of Iraq's capabilities and export capacity. He expressed confidence that the redistribution of quotas after the seizure of Iraq's quota by other states during Iraq's absence from the oil market will provide the required circumstances and climate for the stability of the markets and prices as well.

Safa' Hadi Jawad touched on the continuous losses of OPEC as a result of the consecutive decline in the exchange rate of the U.S. dollar, with which the pricing of crude oil is linked. He noted that the dollar exchange rate recently dropped by approximately 15 percent. This, he said, reflected on oil prices and the revenues of oil exports, adding that this issue was discussed during the OPEC meetings in thJ past years to tackle its effects.

Minister Jawad called on OPEC to discuss the negative effects of the decline in the dollar exchange rate on oil prices and on the revenues of the OPEC members, because they are the ones which will be largely affected by the fluctuation of the dollar exchange rate.

The oil minister expressed his satisfaction with the results of his visit to Qatar and the understanding reached vis-a-vis the interests of the two sisterly countries and the future of their cooperation in oil affairs, as well as their joint coordination for the interest of OPEC and OAPEC [the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries].

The oil minister praised Qatar's pan-Arab stand vis-a-vis Iraq and its people. He said that Qatar seeks—without anybody asking it to do so—to help Iraq return to the oil market.

Remarks on Return to Oil Market Cited

JN1004202495 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1705 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Doha, 10 Apr (INA)—Iraqi Oil Minister Safa' Hadi Jawad has asserted that Iraq is capable of producing 2 million barrels of oil per day [bpd] once it is allowed to return to the international oil market.

In statements to the Qatari newspaper AL-RAYAH published today, Jawad added that Iraq has started preparations for its return to the oil market. It is initially capable of producing 2 million bpd. Later, it will be capable of producing 3.5 million bpd, he noted.

In the statements carried by the official Qatari News Agency, Jawad went on to say that Iraq is committed to OPEC quotas and wants to see them complied with. Moreover, he maintained that Iraq's interests are not served by a decline in oil prices.

In a separate development, Safa' Hadi Jawad met with Qatari Heir Apparent Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani in Doha today.

The talks addressed the repercussions of Iraq's possible return to the international oil market, the demand for OPEC oil, and the stability of oil prices in the next phase.

The oil minister arrived in Doha yesterday, Sunday, on a four-day visit to the State of Qatar.

South Africa's Nelson Mandela Arrives on Visit

JN1004103895 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0840 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Doha, 10 Apr (WAKH)—South African President Nelson Mandela has arrived in Doha on an official two-day visit to Qatar. The visit is part of his current tour of several Arabian Gulf states.

President Mandela was received at Doha Airport by His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani; His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, heir apparent and minister of defense; and Qatari ministers and ranking officials.

During the visit, President Mandela will hold talks with his highness the amir of Qatar dealing with fostering bilateral relations and issues of common interest.

Amir Leads Talks With Delegation

JN1004114895 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0935 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Doha, 10 Apr (WAKH)—A round of official talks was held this morning between the Qatari side led by His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, and the South African side headed by President Nelson Mandela.

The Qatari News Agency said that talks dealt with the prospects of developing relations of friendship and cooperation between Qatar and South Africa in political and economic fields and in the areas of industry, investment, trade, and cultural and technological cooperation.

Talks also dealt with regional developments, the Middle East peace process, Afro-Arab cooperation, current African issues, and a host of regional and international issues of common concern.

Yemen

President Underlines Need for Economic Reform

JN1004171095 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 10 Apr 95

[From the "News Follow-Ups" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday evening, brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih attended a massive popular meeting held at the Conference Hall of the Cultural Center in the al-Hudaydah Governorate. The meeting was called to celebrate the brother president's current visit to the governorate. This meeting brought together their eminence the ulema, tribal chieftains, and representatives of political parties, organizations, and trade unions, as well as representatives of mass and creative associations. Officials of the executive branch of government, members of the judiciary, public prosecution personnel, and security officials also attended. Moreover, prominent women figures attended.

The brother president expressed his pleasure with this meeting, saying: It is a great pleasure for me to meet with these figures from the al-Hudaydah Governorate, particularly after God has allowed our people to triumph over the renegade, secessionist, and treasonous gang, thanks to the efforts made by the people, as well as their great support and the valiant struggle they have waged in defense of the dearest gains of the Yemeni revolution and the noblest of its goals; namely, Yemeni unity.

In the speech he delivered at the meeting, the brother president added: The al-Hudaydah Governorate, as represented by its youths, notables, and tribal chieftains, has been a great support for constitutional legitimacy. This is nothing new, particularly since this governorate served as the throbbing heart of the revolution, unity, and democracy. Moreover, this governorate has extended the best possible support and backing to the Yemeni revolution since its inception. At the time, the masses of the Yemeni people made a great effort to defend the revolution and republic. Hence, we are bound to demonstrate gratitude and reciprocate affection and heroic courage. The masses have made enormous sacrifices to vindicate the revolution. As a matter of fact, all governorates of the republic contributed to promote the revolution and the republic.

The brother president noted the national concerns and economic agonies suffered by the masses at this phase, saying: Our troubles are abundant and our aspirations are numerous. Nonetheless, we will try to do all that is possible within the available means. Undoubtedly, you are aware of the heavy legacy we have inherited from the imamate rule and colonialism, not to mention the impact of disunity and the political crisis that lasted four years and proved to be devastating. This crisis has consumed funds and resources and adversely affected the citizens' lives.

The brother president went on to say: The speakers and poets have expressed various concerns experienced by the people, including price hikes. This is part of the legacy left by the secessionists. This is the price the people are paying for the victory achieved in the interest of unity, democracy, and constitutional legitimacy. I am confident that the people who triumphed in the battles to vindicate the revolution and unity are nowadays capable of triumphing in the battle to effect economic reform and rectify the process of national construction. We all, citizens and officials alike, are required to work together to achieve victory in this battle and meet the challenges it presents.

The brother president said: God be praised, we have kept all the promises we made to the people. Now, we promise you that we will forge ahead with the people's masses and all honorable people of the homeland to eradicate all the social and economic illnesses plaguing the homeland. Just as we worked to eradicate the dens of imamate rule and secession, we will eradicate the illnesses that have continued to plague the society. The people will maintain their vigilance to guard against all those who entertain the notion of tampering with the nation's resources or undermining the revolution's gains. All, be they ulema, intellectuals, politicians, notables, tribal chieftains, senior citizens, and officials, are required to make concerted efforts to surmount the current difficulties; rectify the economic, financial, and administrative state of affairs; and eradicate the dens of corruption and sabotage. We will tell the corrupt people: Enough is enough. Moreover, we will reward efficient people and take wrongdoers to task. Appeasement and favoritism should be brought to a halt. The reform process should begin by placing suitable people in their proper places. Officials are required to uphold this principle, promote performance, and work hard. All those who are unable to contribute toward this endeavor should make room for others who wish to do so, for serious and honest work is required.

The brother president urged citizens and all honorable people to cooperate to accomplish these tasks. Similarly, he urged the government to rectify the situation and implement decisions. He added: The starting point is to rationalize spending at all state agencies. Families and citizens must rationalize spending. There are some parties that are betting on our economic crisis, deluding themselves into believing that it will decide the battle between us and the enemies of the homeland. Citizens must be aware of the roles they have to play in this regard. We have settled our fateful battles with struggle and blood. Those who are abusing democracy must realize that the people will kick them out of their ranks. For the people will show no mercy on those who seek to capitalize on their misery.

The brother president addressed the audience, saying: Do not think that we live in ivory towers. We are aware of our state of affairs, and of our problems. Similarly, we are aware of the implications of these crises. We will not overlook them. We will seek to eradicate them.

The brother president touched on the role the commercial sector has played in promoting the development endeavor. He also addressed the role it must play at this point in time, saying: We are grateful to the brother members of the commercial sector for their contributions to promote the development and construction endeavor, and also for their efforts to defend unity. However, they must be scrupulous in their current activities. They must seek to obtain the trust and affection of the masses, rather than their hatred. This is because there are evildoers and members of a fifth column who are instigating against this sector and attempting to exploit the current circumstances to foment hatred among the sectors of the population and promote conflict within the community. They seek to make a repeat of the old experience, when the commercial sector was brought under pressure by the circumstances of disunity. Then, the commercial sector was forced to flee the homeland. Well, we will never allow this to happen. We must cooperate as citizens to promote the interests of us all. We all share this responsibility.

The brother president added: God be praised, for one of the most prominent goals of the revolution has been realized. This goal has become a reality. The reference here is to the establishment of democracy. Thanks to democracy, the people have managed to exercise their right to elect their ruler, or their representatives to the House of Representatives. The House members are required to play their roles with regard to monitoring the performance of the executive branch of government. State agencies must seek to reform themselves. Those who fail to reform themselves or agencies will be reformed by the people.

The brother president went on to say: Speeches and sweet words are easy to come by. Nonetheless, putting speeches and words into practice is difficult.

The brother president asserted that the new phase requires new courses of action if we are to resolve the many accumulated problems within the next few months. He added: This is the responsibility of the government. All people need to feel the results of reform. We have begun the process of reforming the state of affairs of the military establishment. We have reduced the manpower of this establishment by 50,000 soldiers in order to create the opportunity for improving the status of fighters in this establishment. This is because there can be no development in the absence of a national army. Likewise, there can be no strong army without development. The two are strongly interrelated. Likewise, there is an inescapable relationship between politics and economy, and also between economy and security. There can be no economic prosperity without political stability. Furthermore, there can be no successful foreign policy without a good domestic policy. The opposite is also true. The two are interrelated.

The brother president underlined the importance of promoting our country's ties with neighboring countries, chief among which are the Arabian Gulf and Peninsula states.

The brother president added: We have the greatest possible affection and love for our brothers and neighbors. We are eager to promote the ties of fraternity and kinship upheld by our true Islamic religion, the religion that promotes unity and justice.

The brother president touched on the damage caused to our national economy by smuggling, saying: This damage affects all citizens. For smuggling undermines the national economy. Economic sabotage is a betrayal of the homeland. Hence, I urge all citizens to cooperate with government agencies in order to fight smuggling and eradicate this phenomenon by severely punishing all smugglers. The state agencies must confiscate all smuggled material. This is because smugglers are no less treacherous or harmful than those who promoted secession. Smugglers are no less criminal than traitors. Hence, to fight them is a national duty.

The brother president urged the judiciary and judges to shoulder their responsibilities by hastening the efforts to investigate the cases submitted to them so that we may prevent the fifth column from distracting our resources and hindering the process of development and construction.

The brother president addressed several issues related to the governorate. He indicated that some neglected facilities in the governorate will be sold to develop projects and promote services in the governorate. He asserted that the state will seek to meet the demands voiced by the governorate's residents within the available means. He instructed the governorate's officials to take firm measures against those who are illegally laying their hands on land tracts in the governorate.

The brother president added: Such practices should be deemed taboo. All people must respect the rule of law and public order. Officials must set an example in this regard. The state agencies must begin the effort by reforming themselves. They must respect the feelings of the people, who are agonized by the conduct of the corrupt. At present, we must begin a new phase and a new chapter. We must effect serious reforms. Similarly, we must implement our decisions. The people have accepted these decisions. They support reform. They want to see efficient people rewarded and wrongdoers punished. At present, all efforts must be mobilized toward that end.

Speaker Views U.S. Embargo, Ekeus Report

JN0904073495 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2015 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tunis, 8 Apr (INA)—Sa'di Mahdi Salih, speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly, has said that the United States has undeclared reasons for its insistence on perpetuating the blockade imposed on Iraq.

In an interview with the Tunisian newspaper AL-SHURUQ published here today [8 April], he said that the United States aims through adopting intransigent stands to do its utmost to prevent Iraq from restoring its Arab role and to peddle the settlement process while Iraq is absent. He stressed that terminating the blockade imposed on Iraq is no longer contingent on the Security Council but is rather related to American desires.

He added that the recent statements by U.S. President Bill Clinton and British Prime Minister John Major to the effect that Iraq constitutes a danger, whether it owns mass destruction weapons or not, confirms that international legitimacy has lost its credibility and that the law of the jungle prevails in the world.

Salih noted that the Americans themselves drafted Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 and that Iraq should not respect legal texts they have drafted.

He referred to the new U.S. draft resolution to amend Resolutions 706 and 712, noting that this draft resolution is worse than the two previous resolutions because it allows Iraq to receive only $1 billion of its total oil sales, expected to amount to $4 billion, while the rest of the amount will be earmarked for the compensation fund and the inspection committees' expenses. He added that the new U.S. draft resolution gives the agent cliques in northern Iraq $200 million. It is direct interference in Iraq's internal affairs, he noted.

Salih said that if Ambassador Rolf Ekeus, head of the [UN] Special Commission, is impartial and objective, he will reflect the truth in the report on Iraqi weapons that he will refer to the Security Council. He said that presenting the truth in this report will give Iraq an opportunity to lift the economic embargo imposed on its people.

He reiterated that Iraq has implemented all that was requested from it in international resolutions, specifically Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 which calls for lifting the embargo on Iraqi oil exports. He said the United States does not want this to happen.

AFP: Preliminary Talks Held With U.S. Oil Firms

NC1004151295 Paris AFP in English 1058 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, April 10 (AFP)—Iraq has held preliminary talks with at least eight U.S. oil companies hoping they will lobby for an end to UN sanctions, the Cyprus-based MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC SURVEY (MEES) said Monday [10 April].

"The Iraqis still hope American oil firms will one day prevail on their government to change its policy," the weekly said, adding the talks went ahead despite protests from the State Department.

Iraq also expects that "if U.S.-Iranian relations deteriorate further, Washington may abandon its policy of dual containment (of Iraq and Iran) and open a window to Baghdad," the specialist review added.

MEES gave no details about the talks or the companies involved, but said Iraq's hopes seemed to be "rather unrealistic, considering the political atmosphere in Washington and Conoco's experience in Iran," MEES said.

Washington last month barred U.S. firms from signing deals to develop Iran's oil and gas reserves, blocking a one-billion-dollar deal between Tehran and U.S. company Conoco.

Iraq has been under a UN oil and trade embargo since its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, which was liberated by a U.S.-led multinational coalition in the January-February 1991 Gulf War.

MEES added "some voices within the (Iraqi) regime are critical of cooperation with France," referring to talks with French firms Elf and Total.

Critics argue that it "appears to mean giving in to one (UN) demand after another without any tangible benefits in return," MEES said.

Oil firms from France and Russia have reached an advanced stage in their talks with Baghdad.

France, Russia and China have been lobbying the UN Security Council to ease the sanctions since Iraq recognised Kuwait's sovereignty last November. But the United States and Britain strongly oppose any such move.

UN disarmament chief, Rolf Ekeus, was Monday due to deliver a report to the Security Council on Iraq's progress in scrapping its weapons of mass destruction, a main condition for lifting the sanctions.

Ekeus has already said that his last mission to Iraq in March failed to fill in the missing information on Baghdad's germ warfare programme.

Reaction to Clinton, Christopher Remarks on Weapons

JN0904141895 Baghdad INA in English 1030 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, April 9, INA—Last week, the U.S. President Bill Clinton said Iraq could be rebuilding its mass destruction weapons and his Secretary of State Christopher said on the same day that he is sure that Iraq is rebuilding its biological abilities, the Iraqi English language daily 'THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER' said.

Clinton's statement came in a joint press conference he held together with British Prime Minister John Major, while the statement made by Christopher is at a Jewish rally in Washington.

The daily pointed out that the statements made by the two U.S. officials do not rely on concrete information. These statements contradict with a statement made recently by chairman of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) in charge of disarming Iraq's mass destruction weapons (if there is any) Rolf Ekeus. Ekeus replied to a question raised by reporters in Baghdad late last month if Iraq is rebuilding its weapons abilities, Ekeus said he does not recognize that.

Ekeus has said clearly that there are some missing information about the so-called Iraq's past program of biological weapons and he is working with Iraqi authorities to have these information.

The paper added a top Iraqi official has stressed to foreign reporter in Baghdad that Iraq has imported in 1988 32 tonnes of growth media, 15 tonnes out of them are expired and still on barrels. UNSCOM has seen them while the rest have been distributed to hospitals, and medical laboratories and they were used as medicine. He said that the authorities concerned are gathering information about these materials and they will be submitted to Rolf Ekeus as soon as possible.

The aims of these hostile and false American statements are well- known. The U.S. Administration and its strong ally, Britain want to keep the sanctions on place. They always launch such false statements whenever the Security Council wants to discuss the sanctions imposed on Iraq since 1990. The Security Council is supposed to review the sanctions next week as Rolf Ekeus would submit his six-month report on Iraq's compliance with U.N. resolutions concerning weapons.

The U.S. officials' aim from prolonging the sanctions is to topple the current [regime] and bring a puppet regime that would obey American orders and allow the Americans to control Iraq's oil.

The paper said however Iraqis know very well the bad intentions of the American Administration. The bombs and missiles launched by the U.S. and its allies against Iraq in 1991 and 1993 were not able to blackmail Iraqis' steadfastness and stringent to remain independent and following an independent policy which annoys the American Administration.

Iraq will remain independent and few hostile statements and threats would not, whatsoever, change Iraq's will to remain a sovereign and independent state, the paper concluded.

U.S. Draft Aims To 'Dilute' Legitimate Demands

JN0804081995 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0635 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 8 Apr (INA)—The newspaper AL-'IRAQ has stressed that the U.S. draft resolution includes more harmful, unjust, extortionist, and inhuman conditions that humiliate the Iraqi national dignity than the conditions included in Resolutions 706 and 712, which have been rejected by Iraq since September 1991.

In an article today, the paper says the U.S. draft aims to dilute all Iraq's legitimate demands that the blockade be lifted immediately since Iraq has honored its obligations toward the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. In reciprocation, the UN Security Council should lift the blockade and put an end to the Iraqi people's suffering.

The paper adds that the U.S. draft aims to maintain the blockade indefinitely. It includes conditions targeting Iraq's national unity and territorial integrity through the use of Iraqi funds to finance plotters in the autonomous Kurdistan region and perpetuate its separation from Iraq.

The paper stresses that the U.S. draft undermines Iraq's sovereignty and interferes in purely domestic Iraqi affairs. It deals with the Iraqis as refugees receiving their own money from the United Nations as charity.

Concluding, the paper says: What the United States is contemplating is nothing but confused dreams that will never see the light, for they have been concocted in the dark and in the corridors of plotting against the people of Iraq. The people of crucial battles and historic challenges will not be turned into a group of refugees awaiting crumbs from refugee relief agencies.

Opposition: Saddam Oil Pacts Will Not Be Honored

LD1004163995 London Iraqi Broadcasting Corporation Press Release in English 1620 GMT 10 Apr 95

[Received by fax]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] LONDON (10 April)—A democratic government in Iraq in the post-Saddam era will not honour agreements made between foreign oil companies and Saddam Husayn's regime. This was the message of representatives of the Iraqi National Congress (INC), the main Iraqi opposition group, speaking at the Fifth Annual Conference of the Centre for Global Energy Studies being held in London, April 10-11.

Aziz Ailyan, a member of the INC Executive Council, said "It is well known that Saddam has squandered Iraq's oil wealth on building up his dictatorship. We see companies making deals with Saddam as supporters of the dictatorship."

Ailyan said, "Deals with Saddam are morally indefensible and fiscally unwise. Saddam is using the greed of some oil companies as a lever to break the international isolation imposed upon his regime. These agreements will not profit those companies engaged in them; their only purpose is to maintain Saddam's power."

"The INC considers these negotiations a tacit acceptance of Saddam's outlaw regime and the war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity for which he is responsible. Such a stance is unacceptable to the Iraqi people, and as their representative, the Iraqi National Congress rejects such approaches and contacts."

Saddam's regime will fall, sooner rather than later. Those companies and entities which are judged by a democratic government to have prolonged his dictatorship will have no place in Iraq's redevelopment."

SAIRI: Lifting Sanctions Not in People's Interests

LD0904162595 Tehran IRNA in English 1042 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April, 9, IRNA—The chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq [SAIRI], Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Baqir Hakim has said that the oppressed Iraqi people are now facing two sanctions, one imposed by the United Nations and the other by the Baghdad regime.

Speaking to the English-language daily TEHRAN TIMES published Sunday, he noted that the sanctions imposed on Iraq are unbearable and the worst part of the entire story is the pressure made to bear on the entire people by Saddam's regime.

Referring to the U.N. embargo imposed on Iraq since 1990, in the aftermath of the invasion by Saddam's forces of Kuwait, Hakim reiterated, "if the embargo is lifted and aid is given, it will not reach the people." "Such international assistance will definitely land in the hands of rulers who will spend it for acquiring military weapons and other facilities," he stressed.

The SAIRI head stated that any international aid will not be used for the people's interest but for consolidating the power of the ruling clique.

The dictatorial regime of Saddam is responsible for the prevailing situation in the north and south of the country, the daily quoted Hakim as saying.

"North of Iraq is out of control of the Baghdad regime and the situation in the south is uncertain," he said adding that, the Kurdish community in the north declared autonomy while Iraq's southern part has become a base for Shia Muslims who have been subjects of tyranny of the Saddam regime.

"The Baathist regime is the cause of uprisings in many parts of Iraq," Hakim underlined.

The Iraqi nation should know that the continuation of the present situation will result in the disintegration of Iraq, he stressed and further called for a collective and decisive armed uprising against Saddam's regime for the salvation of the Iraqi nation.

He suggested that the Iraqi nation comprising Sunni and Shia, Arabs, Kurds and Turkmens should unite to combat Saddam's tyrannical rule with determination.

Hakim expressed hope that all factions, religious groups and political minorities will unite to oust the Iraqi regime and finally settle down to work towards the reconstruction of their country.

Prospects for Country's Return to Oil Market Viewed

MS1004083695 London FINANCIAL TIMES in English 10 Apr 95 p 5

[Report by David Gardner: "Waiting for Iraq to come Back on Stream"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Iraq's return to the oil market, when UN sanctions against President Saddam Husayn are eventually lifted, could help stabilise rather than depress oil prices in the medium-term by removing an uncertainty which is now holding prices down, according to senior Saudi Arabian oil ministry officials.

The embargo on Iraq, imposed after Mr Saddam's invasion of Kuwait—in 1990, is up again for review this month. The US and UK are resisting French and Russian pressure to ease sanctions, arguing that Baghdad has still not come clean on its capacity to produce weapons of mass destruction.

Although there is little early prospect of sanctions being relaxed, the oil market's perception that Iraq will pump as much oil as it can and export at a heavy discount to recoup market share and rebuild its stock of hard currency, allied to signs that the coalition in favour of the embargo is crumbling, is already depressing prices, some analysts argue.

"You can't talk to anyone in the market who doesn't say "When Iraq comes back..." ', says one senior Saudi oil ministry official. "Security considerations aside, it would be better to see sanctions go, thereby removing the 'Iraqi discount' from the market," he adds.

Before the invasion of Kuwait, Iraq was producing on average 3.4m barrels of oil a day. It now pumps an estimated 600,000 b/d, spurning a UN facility allowing for the monitored export of higher quantities to pay for food and medicines.

Mr Safa' Hadi Jawad, Iraq's oil minister, was quoted yesterday as saying that Baghdad would pump 2m b/d as soon as sanctions are lifted. But the senior Saudi official doubts that Baghdad could get output up to beyond 1.6m b/d in the short-term, because of several factors including war damage to its transportation facilities, dilapidation and lack of maintenance of its wells and plant due to equipment shortages, and under-investment during the Iran-Iraq war in the 1980s.

He foresees a short-lived price "spike" downwards when Iraq comes back on stream, but thereafter "there could indeed be a premium" with firmer prices once the full extent of the Iraqi oil industry's disarray becomes clear.

Conventional wisdom is that Iraqi re-entry would cause a precipitate price fall, followed by a slow recovery to just below current levels. If sanctions are stretched sufficiently far into the future, demand—especially from Asia—could rise enough to absorb the new supply, maintaining prices. One analyst suggested the Saudis, who increased their own market share at Iraq's expense to a level now over 8m b/d and ostensibly have most to lose from an Iraqi return, may be may be trying to talk up the oil price. Moreover, French, Russian, Spanish, Italian and Brazilian oil companies are in line to develop potentially huge oilfields in Iraq once sanctions are gone.

The Saudis, however, cast doubt on Mr Saddam's willingness to allow in foreign capital, seeing in his recent overtures to oil multinationals a tactical bid to widen splits in the anti-Iraq coalition. "Think of their state of desperation in the 1980s," one senior official said, when Saudi Arabia "lent" Iraq over $6bn of its own oil. "They weren't prepared to do it then," he said.

Furthermore, he added, the Ba'athist regime's history of nationalisation, adventurism, and hostility to foreigners, plus fears that Iraq might disintegrate after Mr Saddam's departure, will make foreign oil companies wary of investing even after sanctions go. "I don't think they would come up with a risk assessment allowing their boards to spend billions of dollars," the official concluded.

Russian, Arab Parliamentary Stances Compared

JN0904083595 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0625 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 9 Apr (INA)—AL-THAWRAH has said that the decision by the Russian Parliament, the Duma, to include the subject of lifting the unjust siege imposed on Iraq on its agenda demonstrates the Russian people's will to see an early end to this siege, which is considered an ugly crime.

In an article published today, the newspaper, which speaks for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, said the Russian Duma's decision demonstrates a clear rejection of the crime of the unjust siege and the harm it has caused to the Iraqi people.

It compared the Russian Parliament, which adopted that decision, and the Parliamentary Arab Union, which failed to adopt a decision or call for lifting the siege.

It said the Arab Parliamentary Union should have responded to at least the minimum of what is dictated by pan-Arab and historical responsibility by launching a campaign in support of Iraq and its struggling people.

It described certain Arab parliaments as official establishments that have nothing to do with the peoples, their aspirations, and their clear positions especially on the unjust siege. These parliaments are mere covers for the official governmental policies.

It emphasized that the unjust siege the United States has imposed on Iraq has killed several children, women, and elderly. It said the steadfastness of Iraq and its struggling people, and the faith, patience, and struggle this steadfastness shows should be something for which all Arabs are proud and should be a banner of their pride, honor, and glory.

Jordanian Energy Minister Pays Official Visit

Transport Minister Views Cooperation

JN1104083595 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 11 Apr (INA)—Transport and Communications Minister Dr. Ahmad Murtada Ahmad met today with Samih Darwazah, Jordan's minister of energy and mineral resources, and his delegation. They discussed means to enhance cooperation between the two sisterly countries in the field of transport and communications.

Industry Minister on Resource Exchange

JN1004162395 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1425 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 10 Apr (INA)—Staff General Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and minerals, today met with Samih Darwazah, Jordanian minister of energy.

The minister of industry and minerals reviewed the spheres of fruitful cooperation between Iraq and Jordan in industrial fields. He also reviewed ways of promoting cooperation and exploiting and bolstering the available resources in a way that will expand the exchange of material and human resources, benefiting from the resources available in both fraternal countries. He underlined the need to reinforce joint Arab action between the two counties and to consider each country a strategic depth for the other in all economic and industrial fields.

The Jordanian minister of energy expressed great pride in the Iraqi capabilities and achievements. He stressed the importance of linking the common interests between the two countries and creating opportunities for bilateral cooperation, benefiting from the capabilities available in Iraq and Jordan.

During a field tour of a number of industrial installations, the guest minister was acquainted with Iraq's great progress, extensive industrial drive, and the efforts being made to build an industrial base. He listened to a detailed briefing on Iraqi creative accomplishments in the installations that he visited.

Transport Minister Meets Canadian Delegation

JN1004103095 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0945 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 10 Apr (INA)—Transport and Communications Minister Dr. Ahmad Murtada Ahmad has met with a delegation representing Canadian companies led by Lambart Tubin [name as transliterated]. They discussed the prospects for cooperation between Iraq and the Canadian companies in the field of transport and communications.

Regime Reportedly Deploys Forces in South Amid Unrest

LD1004163195 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1523 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tehran, 10 Apr—The Iraqi opposition has confirmed that Iraq has been massing huge military forces on its southern border with Iran, following the escalation of opposition operations there. Meanwhile its forces have been surrounding the towns of al-Thawrah and al-Shu'lah in the Baghdad area in anticipation of operations hostile to the ruling regime.

A statement by the opposition Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq quoted Iraqi citizens who arrived in Iran recently as saying that the troops massed by the Iraqi regime in the southern border region are launching artillery attacks on villages in the region. The statement added that the soldiers in the region are taking food from the tribes and houses close to where their units—which lack food—are stationed.

The Iraqi citizens said that the regime's forces have lost control over security in Baghdad, which has led to setting up checkpoints and deploying armed patrols at the main junctions and roads. The Iraqis confirmed that the Iraqi regime's forces and organs are surrounding the towns of al-Thawrah and al-Shu'lah in Baghdad in anticipation of disturbances and anti-regime operations.

They added that disturbances and lack of security are prevailing in the cities of al-Ramadi and Mosul. Meanwhile, the Iraqi authorities are waging arrest campaigns against the citizens who have expressed objections to the Iraqi regime's policies.

Military Reportedly Mines Karkuk Oilfields

NC0804154095 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1445 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Reports reaching Iraqi Kurdistan indicate that military units in northern Karkuk have received orders from tyrant Saddam's regime to mine all oilfields and installations in the Governorate of Karkuk. They are to be detonated if the governorate is liberated by the Iraqi opposition. This procedure follows increasing reports in the past few weeks of a plan to topple the Saddam regime.

The same reports indicate that the regime has moved surface-to-surface missiles with a range of 150 km into areas adjacent to the Governorates of al-Sulaymaniyah and Irbil. The regime's Engineering Corps is working hard to dig trenches in the areas of Chamchamal and Altun Kupri in the Governorate of Karkuk.

Further on Defections, General Staff Purging

MM1004145295 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Apr 95 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Unconfirmed Reports About Escape of Ninawa Governor to Kurdish Areas"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—According to Iraqi sources in the Jordanian capital, Major General 'Abd-al-Wahid Rabat Al Shinan, governor of Ninawa in northern Iraq and one of the senior Iraqi Army officers who gained prominence in the years of the Iraq-Iran war, has fled with his family to the Kurdish areas not under the Iraqi Government's control where there are Iraqi opposition offices.

The sources said that Maj. Gen. Al Shinan, who held key positions in the Army and the Republican Guard before becoming governor and military commander of the Ninawa Governorate, left his office and home and took refuge in the Kurdish areas after a disagreement with 'Udayy Saddam Husayn. However, officials of the two main Kurdish parties headed by Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal Talabani as well as Iraqi opposition officials contacted by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday said they had nothing to confirm that information.

Meanwhile other sources have stated that the dismissal of former Iraqi Army Chief of Staff General Iyad Futayh al-Rawi has also affected all members of the team which had managed the Iraqi chief of staff's office. They have been accused of incompetence by the Iraqi president.

The sources say that al-Rawi, who was replaced by his adjutant, General Sultan Hashim Ahmad, now lives at home, stripped of all his military posts including membership of the Armed Forces General Command, and that the Iraqi President has blamed al-Rawi and his aides for the Army's poor performance in last month's battles against opposition forces in the town of al-Qurnah in the marsh area in the south and on the confrontation lines with Kurdish Peshmerga forces in the north.

The sources add that other al-Rawi aides have been appointed governors in some Iraqi governorates in what is seen as a two-dimensional measure meant, first, to keep them away from the General Staff and, second, to have them as military governors of towns likely to be the scene of antigovernment operations. Ibrahim Hammash has been appointed governor of Mosul, Iyad Khalil Zaki governor of Samawah, and Muhammad 'Abd-al-Qadir governor of Diyala. They have the powers of governors general.

Some sources say they expect President Saddam Husayn to replace Deputy Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi with others including Sa'dun Hammadi who, the sources say, will be given responsibility for economic affairs. Al-Zubaydi and Hammadi held the post of prime minister in 1991 and 1992 respectively. Other sources predict that the powers of Defense Minister Hasan ala-Majid (President Saddam Husayn's cousin) and Interior Minister Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan (Saddam's half brother) will be curtailed and taken over by the president himself, who has been running a number of departments attached to the two ministers.

Turkish 'Invasion' Outlined to Security Council

JN0804082495 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0640 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] New York/United Nations, 8 Apr (INA)—Iraq has denounced the Turkish Forces' invasion of Iraqi territory and strongly rejected Turkish interpretations of this invasion. This came in a message Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf sent yesterday to Karel Kovanda, president of the UN Security Council. This is the second message Iraq has sent to the Security Council on this issue.

The foreign minister said in his message that Turkey is continuing its military invasion of Iraqi territory, thereby encroaching on Iraq's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and airspace under the pretext of pursuing elements threatening Turkish security. In doing so, the foreign minister said, Turkey is exploiting the abnormal situation in northern Iraq created by the United States and Britain, thereby violating the UN Charter, international law, and Resolutions 687 for 1991.

Al-Sahhaf noted that Turkish warplanes and helicopters have intensified their sorties and assaults inside the territory and airspace of the Republic of Iraq.

The foreign minister said: Turkey carried out 107 aerial sorties between 20 and 31 March. The list attached to the letter gives the details of these sorties.

The foreign minister added that the Republic of Iraq categorically rejects the Turkish interpretations and denounces the Turkish invasion of the Iraqi territory. This invasion, he added, constitutes a blatant, serious violation of Iraq's sovereignty, security, and territorial integrity.

Al-Sahhaf said that despite the authorities stipulated by the UN Charter the Security Council has not taken any measures to face and denounce the Turkish invasion. He noted that the Security Council is facing a real test regarding the encroachment on Iraq's sovereignty, political independence, and territorial integrity.

Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf said: The Turkish Government, which dispatched its forces to invade Iraqi territory, is fully responsible for this, regardless of its claims.

He noted that Iraq is not, in any way, responsible for the Turkish Government's claims, because the real cause is U.S. interference in the affairs of the region and the deployment of U.S. Forces in the Turkish territory to interfere militarily and aggressively in northern Iraq to prevent the country from spreading its national authority in this area.

Al-Sahhaf noted that had the national Iraqi authority been in northern Iraq, then the armed groups and the terrorist Kurdish cliques would not have existed in northern Iraq and in southern Turkey.

The foreign minister said: These terrorist cliques appeared there as a result of U.S. interference in northern Iraq. This, he added, largely undermined security and safety there and will inflict more serious damage if the United States continues its same policy.

Assembly Statement Condemns Turkish 'Invasion'

JN1004153095 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1419 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 10 Apr (INA)—The National Assembly urged the Turkish Government to immediately withdraw its military forces from Iraqi territory and not to deal with the outlawed Kurdish cliques that have betrayed the homeland and the people.

This came in a National Assembly statement issued today during the Assembly's fourth session within its spring term under Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih. The Assembly stressed that the Turkish invasion of Iraqi territory is a breach of all protocols signed between the two neighboring countries and a flagrant violation of the relations of good-neighborliness. It added that this invasion has severely harmed Iraq's security and sovereignty.

The statement noted that the presence of Turkish forces in northern Iraq is due to the absence of the central authority in the northern region in which the U.S.-led allied forces are deployed, something which has caused security gaps on the Iraqi border.

In its statement, the National Assembly rejected all the pretexts and justifications used by the Turkish Government to justify its invasion of Iraqi territory. The Assembly denounced this presence as a glaring and serious violation of the Republic of Iraq's sovereignty and security and as an act which poses a threat to the lives and property of Iraqi citizens.

Arab, Foreign Help Sought

JN0904162295 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1230 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 9 Apr (INA)—Iraqi parliamentarians have urged the Turkish Parliament as well as Arab and foreign parliaments to prod the Turkish Government to withdraw its troops from northern Iraq.

During an ordinary session of the National Assembly today under Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih the parliamentarians emphasized that the Turkish military intervention in northern Iraq is a serious precedent in international relations.

During the session, the Assembly members debated the dimensions of the Turkish military intervention in northern Iraq and its repercussions on Iraqi-Turkish relations.

The members also discussed the draft declaration the National Assembly is expected to adopt on the Turkish military intervention. The draft declaration, which was drafted by the Assembly's Arab and International Relations Committee, has been referred to a special committee for redrafting. Once redrafted, the new draft declaration will be returned to the Assembly to be debated at a session the Assembly will hold tomorrow, Monday.

KDP's Barzani Seeks Turkish Aid To Rebuild Villages

NC1004151595 Paris AFP in English 1427 GMT 10 Apr 95

[By Tolle Aram]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Salah al-Din, Iraq, April 10 (AFP)—Iraqi Kurdish leader Mas'ud Barzani called on Turkey on Monday [10 April] to finance the reconstruction of his people's villages in return for helping control the border against rebel separatist guerrillas.

Barzani, leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), one of the two main Iraqi Kurdish factions, has been invited to Ankara for talks on helping Turkey maintain border security against the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

"He won't go to Ankara yet but he has asked Turkey to support financially the reconstruction of the villages along the border," said Rosh Nuri Shaways, a senior party figure at KDP headquarters in the mountain resort of Salah al-Din.

The villages were destroyed by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's forces during the 1980s and before the Kurds took control of northern Iraq in the wake of the 1991 Gulf War.

Meanwhile, leaders of a powerful Kurdish tribe controlling another part of the eastern border triangle between Iraq, Turkey and Iran said his men would help the Turks in return for money, weapons and vehicles.

"If Turkey wants to protect the eastern part of its border, it should talk with us rather than the parties," said Sellam Khan, whose father Kerim Khan controls 5,000-6,000 fighters in the powerful Bradosti tribe.

As the rival groups chased Turkish money, Barzani, in an interview to be broadcast by Turkish television later Monday, said the Iraqi Kurds and the Turkish Army would have to remain on their respective sides of the border after the army pulls out of northern Iraq.

"Each party to the agreement will have to control its own side. Turkish soldiers and peshmergas (Kurdish fighters) must not be mixed to establish security," he said.

Barzani conceded that fighting between his supporters and the rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) had led to a power vacuum in the border area that had allowed the PKK to set up bases in the area from which it launched attacks into Turkey.

However, he criticized the massive offensive launched by the Turkish army against the PKK in northern Iraq on March 20.

"There have been several mistakes which have led to the deaths of numerous civilians," he said.

Barzani said he hoped to see a separate Kurdish state set up in northern Iraq one day but felt such a goal was a long way off.

He was ambivalent toward the PKK, which has fought a bloody guerrilla war against Turkey since 1984 in a campaign for a separate Kurdish state within present-day Turkey.

"The organization is made up of people who kill innocent women and children but also people who defend the rights of Kurds," he said. " 'I have sympathy for the PKK on the second issue."

In Ankara, the PKK announced it would hold the opening session of a parliament-in-exile in The Hague on Wednesday.

Audit Bureau Director, Adviser, Governors Sworn In

JN0904164395 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hikmat Mizban Ibrahim al-'Azzawi, head of the Financial Audit Bureau; and Staff General Iyad Futayh Khalifah al-Rawi, military adviser to the president with the rank of minister, were sworn in before leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him.

Staff Major General Mahmud Shukr Shahin, governor of Wasit; Staff Lieutenant General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Qadir 'Abd-al-Rahman, governor of Diyala; Staff Lieutenant General Ahmad Ibrahim Hammash, governor of Ninawa; and Staff Lieutenant General Iyad Khalil Zaki, governor of al-Muthanna were also sworn in before his excellency, may God protect him.

The swearing-in ceremony was attended by Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi, chief of the Presidential Office; and Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan, minister of interior.

Grain Prices Raised; Farmers To Be Fined for Nonsale

NC0904170995 Paris AFP in English 1529 GMT 9 Apr 95

[By Farouk Choukri]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, April 9 (AFP)—Iraqi authorities have hiked wheat and barley prices by 300 percent to force farmers to sell their entire harvest to the state imposing stiff fines for failure to comply, newspapers reported Sunday [9 April].

After crippling international sanctions were slapped on Baghdad following its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, the government banned sales of cereals on the open market and ordered farmers to sell all their produce to the state at the price set by the Trade Ministry.

At a meeting Saturday chaired by President Saddam Husayn the government decided the Trade Ministry would buy wheat at 105,000 dinars per tonne, compared with 35,000 before, and barley at 60,000 dinars per tonne, instead of 20,000.

The dinar is worth 3.2 dollars at the official rate, but on the black market the greenback was changing hands at 1,200 dinars Sunday amid uncertainty about any easing of the UN sanctions.

The oil and trade embargo has led to spiralling inflation and caused a major dent in the hard currency reserves needed to pay for imported medicine, food and other essential supplies.

The Trade Ministry announced in newspapers stiff penalties for 80 farmers accused of withholding 3,972 tonnes of wheat and 1,882 tonnes of barley from the state in the last harvest.

They were ordered to pay fines representing half the value of the cereals they failed to declare to the state, based on the market price.

State television said the Agriculture Ministry had proposed confiscating the farmers' land, but the government decided to "give them a new chance to help feed the population."

The increase in cereal prices and the new fines were aimed at "encouraging farmers to sell all their produce to the state to contribute to the national struggle against the effects of the embargo," one Iraqi expert said.

In October the government cut food rations by 40 to 50 percent amid a sharp drop in local production.

Ration card holders are now entitled to six kilogrammes of flour monthly, against nine kilogrammes before October.

Iraqi cereal production covers only one-third of the country's needs. Before the embargo Iraq imported wheat from the United States.

In a bid to tackle the shortages the authorities have tried to increase the area of arable land used for cereal crops.

They have drawn up a new irrigation scheme and started extensive crop spraying with helicopters.

A UN report on Iraq's progress in scrapping its weapons of mass destruction goes to the Security Council Monday, setting the stage for debate on lifting the oil embargo against Baghdad.

Under the UN's Gulf War ceasefire Resolution 687, Iraq must eliminate its weapons of mass destruction and submit to long-term monitoring before the embargo is lifted. Baghdad argues it has already met those conditions.

Rabin Links Interim Arrangement, Antiterror Action

TA1004184395 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 10 Apr 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said today that the negotiations with the Palestinians will continue on all planes but that Israel's signing of the interim arrangement will be made conditional on increased antiterror activity. Rabin convened a meeting at his bureau today to discuss the continued negotiations with the Palestinians, saying that the terrorist acts in the Gaza Strip should be taken advantage of in order to compel 'Arafat to disarm Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad members. Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen reports that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] representatives who participated in the discussion—Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq and Major General 'Uzi Dayan—doubted the parties' ability to meet the target date of 1 July.

[Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Television Network in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 10 April carries a similar report which adds that "at the meeting at Rabin's today it was determined that if 'Arafat does not manage to curb terrorism, the implementation of the next stage will be delayed."]

Rabin Receives PA Messages on Gaza Strip Attacks

TA1104081695 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 11 Apr 95

[Report by political correspondent Udi Segal]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yasir 'Arafat now regards Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] as an enemy that threatens Palestinian interests, but it is a long way from this to implementing a serious security policy against the terrorist organizations, according to Israeli political sources. Rabin is demanding that 'Arafat go all the way.

Messages Israel has received from the Palestinian Authority [PA] indicate that the suicide attacks in the Gaza Strip constitute a turning point in terms of the PLO's policy toward the Islamic organizations.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin still does not regard the PA's recent operations as a serious attempt to curb terrorism. Rabin said: We must see whether we are again witnessing pinpointed operations aimed mainly at appeasing Israel or a new policy and the beginning of a strategic campaign. Police Minister Moshe Shahal said if all the men detained over the last two days are released next week, all of it will mean nothing.

Israel is not demanding that 'Arafat wage a civil war but rather implement several basic security measures: gradually disarming the terror organizations; putting those suspected of terrorist activity on trial; and locating the hiding places of the terror squads in order to prevent further attacks.

A senior security source told us yesterday that after the explosion in the Hamas bomb-assembling plant in the al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood, 'Arafat can no longer deny that the terror organizations are hoarding weapons and operating right under his nose.

The negotiations will continue, but Israel is delivering a clear message to 'Arafat: Even if an agreement on the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment and elections in the territories is achieved by 1 July, Israel will be unable to implement it in the field if the PA cannot prove it is in control of security in the Gaza Strip.

Meanwhile, the police are recommending that the territories be put under a complete and prolonged closure in anticipation of the Passover holiday later this week. Prime Minister Rabin has not adopted this recommendation so far.

Police Minister Shahal will present his separation plan to Prime Minister Rabin today. Shahal hopes to implement the plan within six months.

Sarid Satisfied With 'Arafat 'Unprecedented' Steps

TA1104102995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cabinet Minister Yosi Sarid said the government is satisfied with what he called Yasir 'Arafat's unprecedented steps against Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad. Speaking to Qol Yisra'el, Minister Sarid said they will allow for implementation of the next stage of the Oslo accord on time in the fall. Sarid said Israel is not demanding 100 percent success on 'Arafat's part, only 100 percent effort.

Shahal: No Choice But To Continue Peace Process

TA1104065095 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Alon Pinkas and Bill Hutman]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] [passage omitted] Industry and Trade Minister Mikha Harish said yesterday that "it's already clear that the timetable for the Oslo Accord is canceled."

But Police Minister Moshe Shahal said Israel has no choice but to forge ahead with the peace process, despite the continued terror attacks. "There is no alternative, even if the situation continues," Shahal told reporters in Jerusalem.

A first measure taken by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] to combat future attacks is a plan for separate roads.

The plan concerns the access roads leading to the main Gaza Strip north-to-south artery, a highway on which both Israeli and Palestinian vehicles are allowed to travel as stipulated in the Cairo Agreement, military sources said last night.

The plan recommends the construction of two alternative routes to be used by Palestinian cars, while the existing roads will exclusively serve IDF and Israeli civilian vehicles.

Shahal confirmed that security officials decided to separate Palestinian and Israeli traffic in the area of Sunday's attacks, which he said had reaffirmed the need for "the separation of the Palestinian and Israeli populations."

However, the IDF's Gaza area deputy division commander, Col. Yosi Gez, told reporters yesterday that total separation on the roads is unattainable.

"Separation requires extensive infrastructure and road construction. That takes time and money and until then, 100 percent separation cannot be achieved," he said in a briefing.

IDF Intelligence Chief: No Change in 'Arafat Policy

TA1104111195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Major General Uri Sagi, head of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Intelligence Branch, says 'Arafat still does not feel threatened, which has an impact on his decisionmaking processes. He added, however, that 'Arafat is now passing from a cognitive state to one in which he senses that acts of terrorism might endanger both the peace process and his rule. Sagi told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that this awareness, however, has still not caused him to change his policy.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that Sagi added that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad may have cooperated in the recent attacks in Kfar Darom and Netzarim, but there is no solid confirmation of this. Maj. Gen. Sagi believes that even if 'Arafat acts against Hamas and the Islamic Jihad, a civil war will not break out.

Referring to the Syrian track, the Intelligence Branch chief said the only contribution of Dennis Ross' visit to the region was to preserve the momentum of the process.

Jordanian Envoy 'Vehemently' Condemns Gaza Bombings

JN1004165295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 10 Apr 95

["Exclusive" interview with Ambassador to Israel Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir by correspondent Nawwaf al-Nabbari on 10 April; place not given; from the "With the Events" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [al-Nabbari] Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashsir, Jordanian ambassador to the State of Israel, good evening.

[Al-Mu'ashshir] Good evening.

[Al-Nabbari] Dr. Marwan, you presented your credentials today as the first Jordanian ambassador to Israel. No doubt, today is different from other days for you and also for the Jordanian and Israeli peoples.

[Al-Mu'ashshir] In fact, today is a historic day because it represents an end to long decades of hostility between Jordan and Israel. I also believe that it represents the beginning of a new era and a step in a chain of steps that should be taken so this peace can be translated into a comprehensive and lasting peace that will include other tracks and all peoples in the region. [passage omitted]

[Al-Nabbari] Dr. Mawran, as you know, there are those who are building peace. Meanwhile, there are circles which are working to undermine the peace process. We all saw on television yesterday the atrocities that took place in the Gaza Strip through the killing of innocent people and others in order to undermine the peace process. No doubt, the Jordanian position is clear in this regard.

[Al-Mu'ashshir] The Jordanian position is clear. We vehemently condemn all these acts which are basically directed against the peace process. I would like to stress here that the path of peace is not easy and that it is inconceivable to expect that such criminal actions will not occur. However, the only way to reply to such actions is to speed up the peace process and achieve similar successes on other tracks, so peace will prevail in the region and citizens everywhere will feel that peace is actually a just and comprehensive peace that deserves to be preserved and protected. [passage omitted]

Islamic Movement Leader Denounces Suicide Attacks

TA1004190895 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 10 Apr 95

[Gay Peleg video report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli Islamic Movement today condemned the terrorist attack at Kfar Darom. Every drop of spilt blood is unnecessary and peace should have already been reached, Umm-al-Fahm's mayor said. Our correspondent Gay Peleg visited Umm-al-Fahm today.

[Begin recording] [Peleg] Umm-al-Fahm is controlled by the Islamic Movement which has close relations with fanatical Islamic movements in the territories and in Jordan. Yesterday's terrorist acts in Gaza were denounced by the Israeli Arabs. Today, when Minister Shulamit Aloni arrived in Umm-al-Fahm, she also heard a reaction by the strong man of the Islamic Movement, Mayor Ra'id Salah Mahajinah.

[Mahajinah] We greatly regret every drop of blood, always, and we pray to God and hope that the leaders who make the political decisions will say: Enough! The time has come to implement the practical, true, and comprehensive meaning of peace.

[Peleg] Mahajinah was recently detained on suspicion of being involved in election bribes and interfering in interrogation procedures. Mahajinah claims he is absolutely innocent of the suspicions raised against him. The detention and release of this important person raise many questions among the Israeli Arabs. Some say it was decided to use a firm-hand policy against the strengthening of the Islamic Movement and that this may constitute an opening shot for the upcoming elections. [end recording]

Dennis Ross Arrives in Amman, Makes Statements

JN1004122595 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] U.S. Middle East Peace Coordinator Dennis Ross has arrived in Amman on a brief visit to Jordan as part of his current tour of the region. He was welcomed upon arrival by the Foreign Ministry undersecretary and a number of officials. Mr. Ross will discuss with senior Jordanian officials bilateral relations and developments of the peace process.

He told Radio Jordan's As'ad Abu-al-Layl that the discussions would include the forthcoming Amman economic summit.

[Begin Ross recording] Well I think the main objective here is to lay out a very good work plan in advance of when the Amman summit will take place. The Amman summit is an extremely important event; it is another milestone in terms of Middle East peace-making and in terms of the development of the Middle East. One of the things that we cannot lose sight of is that peace must be accompanied by cooperation and economic development. That is the way we are going to begin to demonstrate for people that peace pays. And it is very important to people to see the fruits of peace, the material benefits of peace, and the Amman summit becomes an extraordinarily important opportunity to help provide those kinds of benefits. Thank you. [end recording]

Meets With Crown Prince Hasan

JN1004151995 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, has received Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator for the Middle East peace process, who briefed his highness on the results of his current Middle East tour.

Ross: King's U.S. Visit 'Highly Positive'

JN1104062695 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Before leaving Amman last night, Dennis Ross, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle East affairs, praised as highly positive the results of His Majesty King Husayn's visit and his meetings with U.S. President Bill Clinton and senior U.S. officials.

In a news conference, Ross described Jordanian-American relations as very good. He said the United States is Jordan's partner in the peace process and in the efforts being exerted to build peace on economic foundations through developing the region economically so that the region's peoples will feel the benefits of peace. He voiced his appreciation of the Jordanian role in the region.

Answering a question on the results of his shuttle tour of Damascus and Tel Aviv, he said that his talks in Syria and Israel did not deal with the details of security arrangements between the two countries and that he focused during his shuttle tour on discussing the basic issues of the peace process and means to launch direct, constructive talks between Syria and Israel. He said his talks with Syrian and Israeli officials centered on the principles and goals that would bring the two parties' viewpoints closer in order to launch direct talks between them. He described his talks in Damascus and Tel Aviv as constructive, noting that the two sides explained their positions toward the peace process frankly and clearly.

Leaves Amman, Concludes Regional Tour

JN1004204095 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, received Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator for the Middle East peace process, who briefed his highness on the results of his current Middle east tour.

Ross left Amman today for Washington, concluding a tour of the region which lasted several days, during which he visited Jordan, Syria, and Israel.

Prince Hasan Regrets Deaths in Gaza Bombing

JN1004182295 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Apr 95

[Report by Randah Habib in Amman]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. Special Middle East Coordinator Dennis Ross has held talks with Crown Prince Hasan on developments in the peace process and bilateral ties. Ross has shuttled between Syria and Israel to remove the obstacles hindering progress on the Syrian-Israeli track of negotiations. He earlier met with Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Palestinian self-rule authority, in Gaza, and held talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Cairo.

After talks with Crown Prince Hasan, Ross took part in preparatory meetings held by an international committee ahead of the upcoming Amman economic summit. Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin also attended the meetings. Moreover, representatives of the countries to attend the summit as well as donor nations also attended.

Ross told reporters that the preparatory committee agreed that the economic summit will convene on 29 October and continue for three days. He added that the committee has drawn up draft mechanisms for the projects to be raised at the summit.

In a separate development, Shim'on Shamir, the first Israeli ambassador to Jordan, has presented his credentials to the crown prince, who hopes that peace will prevail in the region. Crown Prince Hasan expressed to the Israeli ambassador Jordan's regret over the death of innocent victims of the two suicide bombings carried out yesterday.

Israeli Envoy on Embassy Operations, 'Anti-Israeli' Laws

TA1004170295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1505 GMT 10 Apr 95

[Interview with Shim'on Shamir, Israel's ambassador to Jordan, by correspondent Arye Gus, following the ceremony in which the ambassador presented his credentials to Prince Hasan in Amman on 10 April—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Gus] Professor Shamir, Israel's first ambassador in Jordan as of today, congratulations.

[Shamir] Thank you very much.

[Gus] How was the ceremony? What can you tell us?

[Shamir] It was a very impressive ceremony. It is a monarchy here, and they excel in ceremonies. The palace looked magnificent, and it was very exciting to hear the playing of the Israeli national anthem. Every detail, the dressy uniforms of the guard of honor, the laying of bouquets of flowers—it was a very impressive ceremony indeed. Afterward, I had the opportunity to hold another talk with Prince Hasan who asked to relay to Israel his deep shock at the latest terrorist acts and his sympathy for the families of the victims.

[Gus] Now that the ceremony is over you are moving into work then.

[Shamir] We started working before the ceremony, worked during the ceremony, and will continue to do so after the ceremony too.

[Gus] Ambassador Shamir, what are the first problems you intend to tackle? What is your order of priorities?

[Shamir] I would not suggest that we define my agenda in terms of problems. There are issues that require handling. Today we are engaged in the Amman conference which is very important for developing economic relations. During a routine work day we handle a full range of issues, including media and cultural ones, and appeals by Israelis and high-ranking delegations which come here. The range of activities is very large and supplies a great deal of interesting work.

[Gus] Do you believe that the anti-Israeli laws will finally be revoked by the Jordanian parliament?

[Shamir] I am convinced of this. In fact, they could have been abolished already, had the Jordanian opposition not managed to forestall the coalition's move on this. The peace process enjoys a stable majority in the Jordanian parliament, and when it convenes for an extraordinary session to handle several urgent matters I am sure that the three boycott laws will be rescinded.

Turkish Envoy on Iraqi Territorial Integrity

JN0604101595 Amman THE STAR in English 6-12 Apr 95, p 1

["Special to THE STAR" by Hamdan al-Haj]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Turkish ambassador to Jordan Mr. Mehmet Ali Irtemcelik reiterated his country's respect for Iraq's territorial integrity in light of the ongoing Turkish military campaign against the PKK [Workers Party of Kurdistan] in northern Iraq. Mr. Irtemcelik told THE STAR he does not interpret Turkey's incursion into northern Iraq "as an encroachment upon Iraq's sovereignty" adding that "smaller operations than this one had taken place in the past with Iraq's compliance."

He described the ongoing military operation as an act of self-defence against "Kurdish forces that have become strong and are deployed along the borders."

Mr. Irtemcelik accused the rebels of "enthusiastically seeking to establish a Kurdish mini-state" saying that this was "unacceptable by the parties involved in the Kurdish problem."

General Coordinator for Peace Process Appointed

JN0904195595 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 9 Apr 95

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Senior diplomat 'Umar al-Rifa'i has been appointed as a general coordinator for the peace process affairs at the Foreign Ministry. He will hold this position in addition to his post as the director of the Ministry's Special Office. Al-Rifa'i had previously served in the Jordanian Embassy in Cairo and was a member of Jordan's delegation to the Middle East peace process.

Mideast Economic Summit Scheduled for Amman 29 Oct

JN1104081695 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 11 Apr p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—The steering committee in charge of organising an economic summit in Amman met here on Monday [10 April] with Arab and international participation and formally decided that the conference would be held for three days starting Oct. 29.

The summit will be a follow-up to a similar conference held in Casablanca, Morocco, late last year and many of the projects and proposals presented at that meeting are expected to be finalised during the Amman meeting.

Also expected to be announced at the meeting is the creation of a Middle East development bank despite differing approaches to its capital structure and funding.

Delegates from the U.S., Russia, the European Union, Japan, Israel, Egypt, the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), Tunisia, and Morocco as well as Gulf states attended Monday's steering committee meeting.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the Regent, met with the heads of the delegation to the meeting and reviewed with them preparations for the economic summit.

The meeting was attended by His Majesty King Husayn's advisor Yanal Hikmat, Minister of Industry and Trade 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib, chairman of the steering committee, Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Karim al-Kababriti and the Crown Prince's advisors.

Dennis Ross, the Clinton administration's coordinator for the Middle East, headed the American delegation to the meeting and Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin led his country's 12- member team.

'Umayyah Tuqan, director-general of the Amman Financial Market, led the Jordanian delegation.

Mr. Abu-al-Raghib opened the steering committee meeting by reaffirming Jordan's commitment to achieving comprehensive peace in the Middle East and to meeting the requirements and challenges of the era of peace in the region.

Jordan is committed to democracy and respect for human rights, some of the prerequisites that encourage foreign investments in any country, he said.

The Kingdom is working on improving its investment climate and towards a free market economy where free movement of funds and goods would be assured, he said.

The people of the region who have been suffering for nearly five decades as a result of the Arab-Israeli conflict deserve a better life, said Mr. Abu-al-Raghib.

The minister said Jordan was working on all levels to ensure the success of the summit.

Mr. Ross, the U.S. delegate, told a press conference after attending the meeting that Oct. 29 was set as the opening date for the three-day summit, which will discuss short and long-term economic projects in the region.

Political leaderships will be represented in the final day of the gathering, he said.

"I feel very good about the outcome of the meeting not only because of the spirit in which it was conducted but also because we were quite focused" in discussing mechanisms for the development of the projects which will be addressed by the summit, Mr. Ross said.

He said participants agreed that the summit should have clear-cut themes, adding that delegates also agreed on mechanisms to enhance project identifications by using progress in this regard made by the multilateral talks of the peace process.

Mr. Ross said the U.S. understands the importance of realising economic dividend of the peace process, adding that there is a "political dimension (to the peace process) which is inescapable and necessary and an economic dimension which is also inescapable and necessary."

"Those who made peace need to see that there are benefits for having done so," said Mr. Ross, who added that the projects being discussed within the framework of the Amman summit are both long- term and short-term projects.

Israel's Beilin said further preparatory meetings will be held in New York and an unspecified European country.

Mr. Beilin said a regional bank for the economic development of the Mideast and North Africa is expected to be announced at the conference.

In arrival comments, Mr. Ross said: "The main objective here is to lay out a very good work plan in advance of the Amman summit,"

"The summit is an extremely important event... it is another milestone in terms of Middle East peace making and in terms of the development of the Middle East."

"Peace must be accompanied by cooperation and economic development as this is the way we are going to demonstrate to the people that peace pays... it is very important that people see the fruits, the material benefits of peace," Mr. Ross said.

Paper: Arab Nations Require Own 'Spy Satellite'

JN0804074695 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 8 Apr 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Race in Space"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It may not be such a big deal that Israel has sent a spy satellite into outer space to hover over several Arab capitals. Israel has been known to gather military intelligence from many Western satellites orbiting the Earth. What is so striking about this new development is the lack of an Arab countereffort to keep tabs on Israeli military intentions.

Israel is known to have several nuclear devices and the means to deliver them. The Arab side has nothing of the sort. It would make sense therefore to conclude that tPe Arab capitals have a lot more to be concerned about than Israel does. The Jewish state cannot continue to enjoy a monopoly over mass destruction weapons, top it all with the launching of Ofeq-3 satellite and remain indifferent to Arab concerns about their own safety. It is also not a big relief that the orbit of Ofeq-3 will take it over only Damascus and Baghdad. The Arabs of the region would never sense security and stability as long as parts of the homeland are under one-sided surveillance.

We may understand the Israeli decision to send its satellite as part of its preparedness for an eventual peace deal with Syria. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has always voiced concern about the military implications of any eventual Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights and how much his country needs precautionary and warning means to forestall any possible Syrian incursion into its heartland. What we cannot understand, though, is the apparent lack of appreciation for the Arabs' own anxieties especially at a time when Israel is known to possess nuclear bombs and their means of delivery. The concerned Arab capitals therefore must strive to have their own spy satellite in order to balance out the disequilibrium that would result from having only the Arab World under surveillance.

Officials Deny Reduction of U.S. Car Imports Duty

JN0904084395 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 9 Apr 95 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Officials on Saturday [9 April] rejected as baseless reports that the government was planning to reduce customs duties on American-made cars and that Washington had promised to send 50,000 cars to Jordan in return for the reduction.

"Someone is dreaming," was the icy comment of an official.

"There is no such plan; nor is there any agreement with the U.S. that Jordan will levy customs duties on U.S.-made cars on the basis of the cost of the vehicle rather than the engine size," added the official, who preferred anonymity.

"There is no reduction in customs duties for any vehicles or any make being planned now," said the official.

Some reports in the weekly press since early this year suggested that "another reduction" in customs duties was in the offing. The reports continued to surface despite formal denials by officials.

Some of the tabloid press speculated that the customs duties were about to be cut down by more than 50 per cent.

The official and others said it was not secret that the U.S. had been pressing Jordan to reassess its customs structure on automobiles and would like the Kingdom to calculate customs duties on the basis of the cost of the vehicles since most American-made cars have higher engine size when compared to their Japanese counterparts.

The officials, who did not want to be identified, noted that the government introduced an across-the-board reduction on customs duties last year but did not change the approach of assessing the duties on engine sizes.

The U.S. commerce secretary, Ron Brown, welcomed the reduction, but said it would like to see Jordan changing the customs structure itself so that American automobiles would be in a better position to compete. But the government has been resisting such a move.

"Whoever is suggesting that Jordan, or any government for that matter, could agree to reduce customs duties only on vehicles made in a particular country cannot be serious," said another official.

The official noted that giving such "preferential treatment" to automobile imports from a particular country would have serious repercussions on the country's trade relations with others.

"It is simply a nonstarter, and there is no agreement in principle or otherwise along these lines," said the official. "If Jordan introduces reductions in customs duties it would be uniform and would not single out the product of one country while discriminating against another."

Meanwhile, the officials also described as nonsense reports in the press that the U.S. had promised to give Jordan 50,000 Ford cars in return for the preferential reduction in customs duties. The reports also suggested that the cars could be sold to civil servants, with payment spread over 10 years.

One report suggested that the first consignment of the cars were due at al-'Aqabah soon.

"It cannot but be a joke," commented one of the officials.

Opposition Planning Inter-Arab 'Anti-Normalization' Rally

JN1004081895 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 10 Apr 95 p 3

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Sa'idah Kilani]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Opposition parties are preparing for a major public conference at the end of this month to rally Jordanian and Arab support to combat all sorts of normalisation with Israel, party leaders said Sunday. [9 April]

Eleven political parties will submit a memorandum today to the Ministry of Interior requesting permission to hold a public rally on April 27, according to Tasyir al-Zibri, secretary general of the Jordanian People's Democratic Party. Party sources said they expect at least 500 people to participate.

Opposition parties said they will also extend invitations to anti-normalisation committees in Syria, Lebanon and Egypt to attend the first conference of its kind.

They will also inform all interested committees and parties in the Arab world, but said they cannot afford to extend invitations since their budget was limited.

The rally aims at adopting a unified stand among the opposition parties vis-a-vis Arab peace with Israel. All participating parties are expected to endorse a pan-Arab charter against normalisation.

According to party sources, the main guidelines of the charter call for the rejection of all sorts of relations with

Israel that are based on the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)-Israel accord reached in Oslo, Norway, and the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, signed last October.

"We will declare out rejection to the American submission politics and their attempts aimed at dominating the Arab and Islamic region," one party activist said.

The activist said the charter emphasises that the Zionist movement was a danger to the Arab nation, and that Israel was an occupying enemy.

In the cultural field, the charter calls for the rejection of and resistance to any amendment in school curricula; boycotting all seminars and conferences with Israel; and publicising against tourism activities with Israel.

In the economic field, the charter calls for boycotting all kinds of trade with Israel, including banking transactions.

The charter also calls for the rejection of the leasing of lands to Israel.

Muslim Brotherhood, IAF Forming 'New Strategy'

JN1004104895 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 10 Apr 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Arrest and search campaigns continue against members of the Muslim Brotherhood movement in the wake of the Wadi al-Mawjib incident two weeks ago in which a French diplomat was injured. AL-MAJD has learned that a debate is growing inside the Muslim Brotherhood movement and the Islamic Action Front [IAF] Party to formulate a new strategy regarding relations with the government in light of the growing arrest campaigns launched by the security forces against the Muslim Brotherhood and IMF members.

Informed Islamic sources told AL-MAJD that the extremists are now gaining ground and attracting the support of the majority of Brotherhood leaders and members, who demand political escalation against the government and the right to self-defense. [passage omitted]

Correction to al-Kabariti on Peace Process, NPT Dispute

WA1104203495

The following corrections pertain to the item headlined "Al-Kabariti on Peace Process, NPT Dispute," published in the 4 April Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, pages 37-38:

Make subslug read: [Interview with Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti by JERUSALEM POST correspondent Hillel Kuttler; place and date not given] (identifying interviewer's newspaper affiliation)

Page 38, column two, last paragraph, make read: ...the Arab countries. [new paragraph]

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 31 March publishes the above interview with Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti by correspondent Hillel Kuttler] (adding editorial note on interview's initial publication in THE JERUSALEM POST)

Foreign Minister Interviewed on Peace, U.S. Talks

NC1004112095 Beirut AL-ANWAR in Arabic 8 Apr 95 p 5

[Interview with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' by Nabil Khuri carried on Lebanese Future Television on 7 April; place not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Khuri] Since the latest round of negotiations in Washington, Israel and its rulers have been trying, through numerous statements, to say that this track has indeed made progress. Damascus denies this. Where have the peace talks between Syria and Israel reached?

[Al-Shar'] First I would like to say that Syria is not disturbed if some people are optimistic, as long as such optimism is justifiable, that is, if Israel agrees to Syria's proposals for a fair and comprehensive peace in the region based on international law, UN resolutions, and on land in return for peace. But if the optimism Israel is voicing is aimed at other purposes unrelated with real progress on the Syrian track, we realize that this optimism is not in the interest of Israel or the peace process, because it would be based on illusions; illusions do not build peace. Peace requires tangible things. A tangible thing means complete Israeli withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 border and the establishment of a comprehensive peace in the region to create a qualitative change in the region's orientation and end the state of war that has prevailed for so many years.

[Khuri] This has not happened?

[Al-Shar'] Of course not.

[Khuri] The U.S. secretary of state recently said there is not much time left for Syria and similarly for Israel and the United States, in which there will be elections. He is suggesting that 1995 is crucial for the negotiations. Do you believe this year will be decisive?

[Al-Shar'] It might be and it might not be a decisive year. The same thing was said about 1994, that it would be decisive, but nothing tangible was achieved in the peace process that year. True, the elections are drawing near in Israel and the United States. It is true, too, that we in Syria realize that we do not have forever. But negotiations are not a goal in themselves; they are a means to reach positive and tangible results. We now sense that the United States is exerting more effective efforts. Christopher's latest tour broke the deadlock and the United States is playing a more effective role. This is true. Secretary of State Christopher has actually become more involved in the talks between the two ambassadors in Washington than ever. Peace process coordinator Dennis Ross and the U.S. delegation participated in the recent talks in Washington between the two ambassadors. Secretary Christopher said he spent more time on these negotiations than on any other task in his life. This is true. And we hope that these efforts will bear fruit and give the required results.

[Khuri] Should real progress be made on the Syrian-Israeli track, do you believe that Lebanon might enter these negotiations soon? Will there be Israeli-Lebanese negotiations?

[Al-Shar'] We believe, and have declared this repeatedly, that the Syrian and Lebanese tracks go in tandem. When the recent talks resumed between the two ambassadors the goal was to exchange views on specific points relating to the principles of security arrangements. This is a private problem between Syria and Israel. We believe that when we agree on a common understanding of the principles and goals of the security arrangements, it is only natural that Lebanon and Syria will resume talks on their tracks so that progress will be balanced on both tracks.

[Khuri] I remember that following President al-Asad's meeting with President Clinton in Damascus, President al-Asad insisted that security would be parallel. Is this still Syria's position?

[Al-Shar'] Syria's positions remain; they do not change, first because they proceed from a Syrian national and pan-Arab stance and, second, because they rely on a broad base called international legality and the UN resolutions. Security must be parallel, reciprocal, and equal on both sides of the 4 June [1967] borderline. This is a fundamental issue for Syria, an issue that is presently the subject of serious discussion by the U.S. sponsor in its contacts with the Syrian and Israeli sides.

[Khuri] Since we are discussing security, Israel says that security is its greatest concern with the Palestinians, with Lebanon, and with Syria. Naturally, should negotiations between Lebanon and Israel resume, Israel and the United States will ask for Lebanon's assistance regarding the issue of the Lebanese resistance from within Lebanese territory. What will Syria's position be regarding this resistance if there is progress in the negotiations?

[Al-Shar'] Actually, for several years Israel has been attempting to propagate, be it through its media, in world capitals, or even in the region, that security is its main concern, as if the Arabs were always the aggressors against Israel. But the facts are contrary to what Israel is saying. First. The Palestinian issue emerged in the forties with the establishment of a Jewish state on part of the land of Palestine. Contrary to a UN resolution, no Arab state was established on the remaining part of Palestine. Accordingly, Israel's claim that it is the only party with security concerns is contrary to reality. Second. If we go back to the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict we will find that all the wars that broke out between Israel and the Arabs, with the exception of the 1973 war, were started by Israel. In all these wars, Israel had more military troops and equipment than the Arab side. Even at the time Israel was established, when Israel stated that seven Arab armies had attacked the newborn state and made all these claims, the number of armed Jews facing the seven Arab armies was more than all the Arab armies. This is a fact. Now it is known what advanced weapons Israel possesses and what weapons it is manufacturing—from the tank to the missile. I would like to say in this brief review that security is in reality an Arab demand before being an Israeli demand. But we in Syria say that security is a need for the two sides if we want to reach a comprehensive and just peace in the region. The security of one party must not be at the expense of the other party. Instead, it must be equitable and parallel on both sides of the 4 June 1967 line.

[Khuri] Of Course it is a basic Arab demand. A few days ago the newspaper MA'ARIV leaked a report saying that in the event of progress on the peace track, Syria will ask the leaders of the Palestinian resistance who reject peace and the Oslo agreement to leave Damascus or suspend their activity. Normally, news agencies carry such a report as if it were major news. What is your opinion on this?

[Al-Shar'] Press rumors circulated about this topic and that Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam told leaders of the Palestinian factions in Damascus to prepare themselves to leave. This is absolutely untrue. Syria does not view the Palestinian presence on its territory as terrorism and they [the Palestinians] naturally do not practice terrorism. In the essence of the peace process, Syria cannot accept being told how to act at home, on its own territory. For Syria peace must be honorable, one that preserves the dignity of the Syrian people. It must be just and comprehensive, thus attaining the hoped-for goal, namely, security and stability in the region. We cannot enter into an agreement that leads to reconciliation with Israel and war with others. For us, peace must be general for everybody.

[Khuri] The Oslo agreement is ultimately a separate deal and you expected it at the time. It takes years to interpret every article of this agreement. Has the Oslo agreement provided security for Israel or the Palestinians? And where does the Oslo agreement stand today in your opinion?

[Al-Shar'] President Hafiz al-Asad made a famous statement when the Oslo agreement was signed, a statement that many world leaders recognized for its objectivity. His excellency said that every point in these negotiations needs new negotiations. Now more than one and a half years have passed since the Oslo agreement and nothing has changed. Things have become much worse. The security situation has deteriorated both in the occupied territories and in Israel. Nobody knows when the second stage will begin or whether it will really proceed toward the goals desired by the Palestinian people. There are many problems involved in this predicament, which has become a trap for those who signed it. Naturally, we in Syria do not want to get into media wars over this issue but we state things as they are in reality so that we can see the future with more clarity.

[Khuri] When the Oslo agreement was concluded, it was a surprise for everybody. Did it affect the other peace tracks? Had the Oslo agreement not been signed and the Arabs remained together in the negotiations on the understanding that they would conclude peace together, do you believe the negotiations would have been faster?

[Al-Shar'] Maybe the goal behind signing the Oslo agreement so quickly was an attempt to pressure Syria to change its attitude of adherence to its rights and the restoration of all Arab territories. But in reality there has been no change in our positions. We held tight to our constants. We could say that the Oslo agreement created a predicament for those who signed it but it did not change Syria's attitude. It was not suitable for use as an element of pressure against Syria.

[Khuri] In discussing Syria in articles and seminars, questions are asked about Syria's regional role in the post-peace era, as if Syria has no role now. I want you to discuss Syria's current regional role and your concept of this role after peace has been achieved.

[Al-Shar'] Since it launched the Corrective Movement, Syria has cherished a deep conviction that there are no contradictory interests between Syria's national and pan-Arab stances. The better the Arab or pan-Arab stance, the better Syria's national interests. Whenever Syria's national stances are strengthened, the Arab national stance improves. We do not agree with some brothers who believe that there are national interests apart from pan-Arab interests. President al-Asad once said that the man who cannot safeguard pan-Arab interests cannot safeguard his national interests. This is a sound and realistic view. Syria adheres to its national and pan-Arab stance and naturally it hopes and acts in the Arab arena so that all the parties might adhere to their pan- Arab stances.

[Khuri] Some people in Lebanon are now talking more than ever about the 17 May agreement [between Israel and Lebanon in 1983], which Syria insisted on abolishing. These people maintain that whatever agreements Lebanon may reach in negotiations with Israel, they will be no better than the 17 May agreement. Other people also believe that this view is right.

[Al-Shar'] There is something misleading in this view and the conclusion is not correct. The political and legal aspects of the 17 May agreement are against the Lebanese people's interests. On the political level, right after its signing, the 17 May agreement triggered a real internal crisis and the civil war resumed. It transpired that only a small minority supported the 17 May agreement. The vast majority of the Lebanese people reject the 17 May agreement, not just because Syria was against it. In all its national stances, Syria considers the pan-Arab stance. Syria knows the Lebanese people will not accept a unilateral agreement with Israel. Moreover, this agreement will not lead to real withdrawal from Lebanon, even though some clauses refer to withdrawal. If we closely study the 17 May agreement we will find that it sought to turn Lebanon into an Israeli protectorate, that is, if the Lebanese people had accepted this agreement. I will give two examples:

1. The 17 May agreement dictated that in its trade relations with the Arab countries, particularly an Arab country importing military equipment from a Western or Eastern country, Lebanon should only be used as a transit point. It dictated that Lebanon should refrain from facilitating such transactions to other countries unless they have peace ties with Israel.

2. The 17 May agreement dictated that Lebanon give up sovereignty over its airspace as it defined that the Lebanese Army was not allowed to possess antiaircraft guns on its territory capable of reaching higher than a specific altitude. Thus Lebanese airspace above this altitude would be under full Israeli control. This not only violates Lebanon's sovereignty, but also affects Syria's national and pan-Arab security. On the legal level this agreement provides yet another bad example of separate agreements, and distances the area from peace more than ever. It would thus isolate Lebanon from its Arab surrounding, which Egypt itself could not bear. How could Lebanon, given its size and geographical position, bear to be isolated from the Arab world? Lebanon considers the Arab world its strategic depth. As I said, this agreement would not have led to real Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon.

Now, even for Israel, I say that the 17 May agreement and Israel's invasion of Lebanon have generated in the Lebanese people a deep national feeling of confronting Israel and its attempts to dictate its terms to Lebanon and the Lebanese resistance. The best evidence of this is that there was no Lebanese resistance before the Israeli occupation or Israeli invasion of Lebanon. True, there was a Palestinian resistance, but there was no Lebanese resistance. Now this resistance is playing its role in terminating the Israeli occupation. The Lebanese people are clearly rallying round it, despite Israel's attempts to propagate the mistaken notion that this resistance is terrorist. It tried to convince Washington, London, Paris, and several capitals that the Lebanese resistance is terrorist, but it failed to do so. This is because what the resistance is doing is a legitimate right being exercised on its territory. In my view, Israel has started to realize that its attempts to accuse the resistance of terrorism have failed. If there are few Lebanese who believe all these implications are meaningless, or if they do not believe them, although they have been proved in reality, Syria, out of its desire for Lebanon's independence and unity, would welcome it if Israel now proceeded—it would have welcomed it if Israel had done so in 1983 or at any time—toward implementing Security Council Resolution 425 and withdrawing unconditionally from Lebanon. Had Israel really been looking for such an agreement with Lebanon, the 17 May agreement would not have existed, because it contradicts Resolution 425, which calls for an unconditional withdrawal from south Lebanon.

[Khuri] Let us discuss some Arab issues and worries. There is something called the Damascus Declaration. What happened to that Declaration and what is its fate?

[Al-Shar'] The Damascus Declaration was signed in extremely special circumstances. True, it has not gone far enough toward implementing its various political, economic, and security aspects. But I can say that through our meetings as foreign ministers of the Declaration's member states, the eight countries are eager to continue their adherence to the Damascus Declaration. Were it not for this adherence, the Declaration would have been finished. The political part of the Damascus Declaration has been the dominant part in the past, since the meetings that group the eight foreign ministers mostly deal with fundamental and substantial issues of interest to the Declaration's eight signatories. As for the economic part, little was done in this regard. As for the security aspect, it was agreed that the agreements would be bilateral between any two member states and between Egypt and Syria. Several meetings have been held, the latest was on the sidelines of the Arab League Council. It has been agreed to further discuss ways to find an acceptable mechanism for activating the political and economic issues of the Damascus Declaration.

[Khuri] At the Arab League Council session two weeks ago, the idea of a unified Arab position on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty was proposed. How does Syria view the results of that session? Was it very important for the region?

[Al-Shar'] The renewal of the Treaty, which will be discussed in New York in the middle of this month within the framework of the United Nations, was the main issue preoccupying the Arab foreign ministers in the Arab League meeting in Cairo. The discussions took hours. I can say that if the Arabs stick to the text and spirit of the unanimously adopted resolution, they will be demonstrating a unified Arab position on the Treaty, that is, they will not accept joining the pact unless Israel joins it.

[Khuri] Is each Arab country free to decide individually on this issue?

[Al-Shar'] Not at all.

[Khuri] This is what newspapers wrote.

[Al-Shar'] That was one of the interpretations given. Some people thought the Arabs would not be committed to the basic principles mentioned in the Arab League resolution. But if the Arabs commit themselves to these principles and to the text and spirit of the resolution, then they must display a unified position. This is what they decided freely and unanimously, namely, that it is unacceptable to exclude Israel from the Treaty if the world wants the pact to be comprehensive and universal, involving all states without exception and without using double standards. It is regrettable that great pressure is being applied on the Arab countries while no pressure is being applied on Israel to join the Treaty. There is a serious contradiction in applying this pressure. They tell the Arabs: You must support the Treaty, accept its indefinite extension, and not set preconditions for your membership. Yet they do not ask Israel to join the Treaty or to avoid setting preconditions for joining it. These are the consequences of international changes; a serious and negative part of them is the use of double standards, or even something more serious than double standards, when right becomes wrong and wrong becomes right at any moment.

'Palestine' Broadcast Reacts to Gaza Blasts

JN1004193295 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1530 GMT 10 Apr 95

["Palestine" broadcast: "Talk of the Return" feature presented by Fayiz Qandil]

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother strugglers: The splendid Palestinian martyrdom-seeking operations yesterday shook the ground under the two malicious Zionist hotbeds in the Gaza Strip known as the settlements of Netzarim and Kfar Darom. The Palestinian ground was shaken under these two settlements so that the ground would shake in Tel Aviv out of anger and terror. People there became furious and angry. If they were fair—and how can unjust people be fair—they would not be furious and angry. This is because what happened in Kfar Darom and Netzarim was in retaliation for what happened during the past 10 days, that is, since Saturday before last [1 April]. We do not want to refer to what happened on 25 February [1994] before last, that is, to the massacre of Baruch Goldstein, the butcher of the holy Ibrahimi Mosque.

However, let us ask a question which will explain what happened yesterday in Netzarim and Kfar Darom. What happened over the past 10 days? The Saturday before last [1 April], four Israeli helicopters carried out the meanest and most cowardly aerial assassination against a Lebanese citizen who was travelling in his car on the ground; namely, martyr Rida Yasin. Following the assassination, Antoine Lahd's militias rushed to express their admiration for the mean crime by saying that this Israeli terrorist crime—the assassination of mujahid Rida Yasin—was not only a military operation, but also an intelligence operation. In other words, the agent border strip militias, which flattered the Israeli intelligence, paid, on the same day, the price of this mean appeasement of the Israeli colonialist.

The assassination of Lebanese martyr Rida Yasin took place on the Saturday before last. What happened the next day, on the Sunday before last? The one who turned a blind eye to the Gaza demonstrations on the Sunday before last, is the only one who claimed that he was surprised at the earth shattering under the two malicious Zionist hotbeds, that is, under the settlements of Netzarim and Kfar Darom in the Gaza Strip. What happened on Sunday before last was the Israeli terrorist crime of assassinating the heroic Palestinian martyr Kamal Kuhayl and his righteous comrades, including the two- or four-years-old child. Israeli terrorism and colonialism committed that terrorist crime despite the failing Israeli attempts to evade responsibility, as Shim'on Peres did when he claimed, happily, that martyr Kamal Kuhayl and his comrades were going to kill other people, that is, the Zionists, but killed themselves instead. In other words, Shim'on Peres pretended to support the claims of the self-rule authority regarding an unpremeditated explosion in the al-Shaykh Radwan district in Gaza as a result of the so-called storing of weapons in populated areas.

The evasion by Israeli officials, such as Peres, of responsibility for the Israeli terrorist crime, which produced the disaster in the al-Shaykh Radwan District, will not remove the blood from the Zionist beast's claws, lips, and teeth. The Israeli press, the next day, made a full confession, in fact, boasted about this Israeli terrorism.

The Israeli newspaper YEDI'OT AHARONOT commented happily on the martyrdom of the hero of all heroes Kamal Kuhayl, by saying: Israel killed the killer number one. In other words, he is the number one man in the Gaza Strip who is resisting Israeli terrorism, as justice and reality say.

The Israeli newspaper DAVAR expressed its joy also and considered the martyrdom of leader resistor Kamal Kuhayl a splendid victory for the new chief of the Shin Bet, that is, the new chief of the Israeli espionage apparatus, known as Shin Bet. After these Israeli confessions of Israeli terrorism, can anyone doubt Israeli responsibility for the disaster in the al-Shaykh Radwan district, and consequently, can anyone doubt the need for making Israeli terrorists pay the price? This is what really happened, after eight days only, in Netzarim and Kfar Darom.

We would like here to recall some heroic acts and glorious deeds by the militant leader resistance man, martyr Kamal Kuhayl. Kuhayl, together with his resistance cell, executed the commander of the special Israeli secret units in the Gaza Strip; namely, Israeli Lieutenant Colonel Me'ir (?Metzim]. These are the units of Israeli spies who wear Arab clothes and infiltrate Arab quarters to assassinate Palestinian Arab citizens. This heroic operation, carried out by martyr Kamal Kuhayl in 1993, was described by General Amnon Shahaq, who is current Israeli chief of staff, as the most daring and most accurate military operation in many years in the Gaza Strip.

Hence, the last 10 days—which began on the Saturday before last, when Israel assassinated Lebanese mujahid, martyr Rida Yasin, in southern Lebanon, and during which, Palestinian hero, Kamal Kuhayl, and his comrades were assassinated in the al-Shaykh Radwan district, in Gaza, on Sunday before last—are considered a decisive, firm ultimatum issued by the heroic resistance in the occupied homeland that it will take revenge quickly and strongly.

Some Israeli officials were aware of this ultimatum, so they said they are ready for all possibilities. Despite this

Israeli readiness, the Palestinian Arab hand of justice, which was armed with rights and explosives, was extended to punish Israel for assassinating martyrs Kamal Kuhayl, Rida Yasin, and before them, martyr Hani 'Abid and the martyrs of the holy Ibrahimi Mosque.

We must say that the strangest comment on the Kfar Darom and Netzarim operations was made by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, who asked surprisingly: What will the situation be if Israel withdraws from the cities and villages in the West Bank and Gaza Strip?

The answer is simple and clear: The presence of Israeli colonialism in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip sparked this resistance. This is what Shim'on Peres ignores. If Israel withdraws from the Palestinian territory and if the Palestinian Arab people restore their national rights, particularly the right to establishing a free sovereign state, then there will be no need for this resistance. Shim'on Peres and all Israel know this. However, Israel wants to colonize and Judaize the Palestinian Arab territory. It is time Israel understood that its presence in the occupied Arab territory is temporary and transient, and for which it will pay a heavy human price. The sooner Israel evacuates from the occupied Arab territory the more human losses it will spare, because it will not take one inch of occupied Jerusalem, the West Bank, or the Gaza Strip.

Country 'Will Not Stand Idle' to Israeli Attacks

JN1004201095 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 4 Apr 95 p 1

[Article by Muhammad Khayr al-Wadi: "Southern Lebanon and the New Facts"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] If the Israeli Government believes that through aggression and threats, it can achieve its objectives and revive its expansionist plans in Lebanon, then it is really deluded and unable to learn the lessons of the recent past and understand the new Lebanese situation.

The aggressive operations carried out by the Rabin government over the past weeks have confirmed a host of facts. The first is that it is impossible to liquidate the nationalist resistance in southern Lebanon through aggression and occupation. The resistance was born as a natural reaction to the Israeli occupation of part of the Lebanese territories, and it will not stop until after the elimination of the cause which pushed the Lebanese people to opt for the path of resistance, specifically the occupation. The Israeli efforts to hold others responsible for the continuation and escalation of the resistance will not succeed. The Rabin government's attempts to liquidate the resistance through aggression, blockade, and piracy against the Lebanese citizens will also fail. [passage omitted]

The Israeli policy in Lebanon has failed. The brute force of aggression will never be able to revive this policy or to instill life in its collapsing symbols. The Rabin government should realize that carrying out further aggressions against Lebanon will expand the circle of Lebanese hostility to Israel, exacerbate Israel's impasse and problems, and further complicate the prospects of achieving a just and lasting peace in the region. At the same time, the Israeli security theory has collapsed in Lebanon, and before in the October [1973] war of liberation.

A few days ago, Rabin admitted that it is impossible to end the Lebanese nationalist resistance by military means. The Rabin government should translate its admission into specific facts. That is if it really has a desire to achieve peace. This means that Israel should begin full and comprehensive withdrawal from southern Lebanon, stop interfering in Lebanon's internal affairs, and respect Lebanon's independence and sovereignty. Only then, stability, security, and peace will prevail in the region.

The south Lebanese events have created new facts in politics. The Israeli Government should take these facts into consideration and learn the lessons of the past which proved the failure of all the Israeli military adventures in Lebanon.

The language of aggression is no longer the appropriate language in today's world. It is impossible to convince anyone in the world that occupation is the curative means to guarantee security and stability.

Still, there is something which we should emphasize; namely, that Syria, which supported Lebanon under the most difficult circumstances and helped it find a way out of the whirlpool of the civil war which was ignited by Israel, will not stand idle if the Israeli aggression against this Arab country continues. It will decisively, and by all means, support the Lebanese people to enable them to repulse the Israeli aggression and foil all the conspiracies and intrigues being hatched by Israel against Lebanon, the people and the land.

Commentary Laments Peace Process 'Complication'

JN1004160195 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1138 GMT 10 Apr 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Despite all the efforts being made, especially by the U.S. side, the peace process remains obstructed and is still revolving in a seemingly endless vicious circle. The entire process does not need all this complication and reaching a solution does not need all this wasted time and effort. However, what has been happening over the past three and a half years reveals that procrastination and placement of complications and obstacles are an Israeli policy that is precisely planned and prepared in advance.

Israel is the side which obstructed the peace process on the Syrian track. It is also the side which continues to avoid the requirements of peace. Achieving peace, first of all, requires a commitment to UN Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 and to the land-for-peace principle. Syria agreed on these bases a long time ago and entered the peace process and took part in the Madrid conference based on them. These bases were not drawn by Syria and the Arabs. They were drawn by the international community and the U.S. Administration, which launched the peace initiative and sponsored the Madrid conference and continues to make efforts to bring the peace train to its destination.

At a time when Syria agreed on these resolutions and principles as a basis for peace in the region, Israel is rejecting these bases and wants to replace them with its own resolutions, conditions, and demands that are not recognized by the international community and are not in line with reason and logic or with any international legitimacy principle.

Perhaps Israel thinks that the partial agreements and separate deals it signed in Oslo and in Wadi al-'Arabah might make Syria rush toward reaching a similar agreement so that it would not remain outside the claimed peace train. Israel began to wager on a change in the Syrian stand that would lead to a deal similar to what was reached during festive ceremonies whose lights went out soon after they were over. However, none of this has happened or will happen in the future. This is not because Syria does not want peace but because, in deeds and words, Syria is working for a durable peace that would end the exploding situation, would not exacerbate it, would put an end to wars, and would not leave fire smouldering under ashes so that it will not ignite again.

Syria which is working for a just and comprehensive peace does not want a deal that could collapse under any test. It openly announced its willingness to respond to the objective requirements of this just peace according to bases and resolutions approved by the international community.

Even when Israel used security fears as a justification, Syria agreed on security arrangements that guarantee the protection of the desired peace for all parties. Despite the fact that Israel has been the aggressor for half a century, Syria agreed on parallel and equal [mutawaziyah wa mutasawiyah] security arrangements on both sides of the 4 June 1967 borders. However, Israel's demand for security arrangements deep inside Syria [fi al-'umq al-suri] that are not paralleled [la tuwaziha] by security arrangements deep inside Israel [fi al-'umq al-isra'ili], first and foremost, reveals Israel's ill intentions and its lack of seriousness in its talk about peace. Syria has security fears too. Indeed, Syria's fears are much greater than Israel's alleged baseless fears. This is demonstrated by the fact that Israel is the aggressor and is the party which continues to occupy the Arab territories.

From this premise, Syria insists on parallel security arrangements given that peace is the best way to safeguard everyone's security and peace. However, most important of all, any talk about security arrangements—regardless of their extent, depth, and positioning [madaha wa 'umqiha wa tamarkuziha]—and about peace remains meaningless talk if it is not preceded by a clear and frank Israeli commitment to the principle of a full withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon. This is because there can be no peace, security, and stability in the region without fully restoring the occupied Arab territories to their real owners.

This is the Syrian stand which is well known to the entire world. If Israeli officials are talking about and brandishing the weapon of wasted time, then this weapon does not scare Syria. If Syria had the choice between a fragile peace and partial deal now and a just and comprehensive peace built on clear bases some years later, then it will choose real peace no matter how long it takes to achieve. Syria is not in a hurry. It will not embark on something that does not serve its interests and is not in line with its principles and the UN and international community resolutions.

Papers: Israel 'Evading' Just Peace Requirements

JN1104061995 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 11 Apr 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its editorial today, TISHRIN says: Israel is evading the requirements of the just peace. It squandered opportunities to achieve successful negotiations on the Syrian track when it set impossible conditions on security arrangements which cannot be accepted under any circumstance. Furthermore, Israel has adamantly rejected the principle of complete withdrawal from the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon.

The paper adds: Syria has entered the negotiations to achieve peace and regain rights. It offered all it can in order to continue and ensure the success of the peace process. Syria had to put up with several Israeli maneuvers and opened the door for U.S. efforts that sought to persuade Israel to abandon its intransigent positions.

TISHRIN stresses that Damascus will never abandon an inch of the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon and that it will not accept today what it rejected 20 years ago. Syria also rejects the lame solutions that do not end tension or build peace, security, and stability. Syria is not in a hurry. It is not eager or desperate to accept fragile solutions or separate deals, regardless if Rabin stays in power or not.

The paper stresses that Syria's position in the world is now well known and cannot be overlooked. It adds: Damascus' weight cannot be overlooked. It is now common knowledge that there can be no peace, security, or stability in the region without Damascus.

The paper adds: The Arab mass rallying behind Syria and its leader, who is now a symbol for Arab pride and dignity, is growing.

TISHRIN concludes by saying: The settlement which Damascus seeks is one that returns land; guarantees rights; ends injustice, aggression, and expansion; and provides the requirements for a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace.

AL-BA'TH discusses the regional peace process and the obstacles it is facing because of the intransigent Israeli positions that avoid commitment to the resolutions of international legitimacy which call on Israel to withdraw from all the territories it occupied by force.

The paper adds: It is now certain that the Israeli position remains unchanged. Rabin's government is continuing with the policy of procrastination and maneuvering. Therefore, Israel wants a peace like that which it achieved with 'Arafat; a peace through which it can achieve its expansionist designs that it failed to achieve through its aggressive wars.

The paper says: Israel must understand that Syria rejects such limb and fragile settlements because Syria seeks to achieve the just and comprehensive peace and will not accept anything else,

AL-BA'TH stresses that Syria sticks to the implementation of the relevant resolutions of international legitimacy to achieve a just and comprehensive peace that can endure.

Afghanistan

Taleban To Halt Payments 'Until Kabul Falls'

LD1004164195 Tehran IRNA in English 1549 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Birjand (Khorasan), April 10, IRNA—Following seizure of the capital city of Farah Province by the Talebans group, all schools and government departments have been closed, an Afghan source said here today. The wages of government employees in the province has not [been] paid, he added.

He said Taleban leaders have announced that they will not pay the wages of government employees in areas under their control until Kabul falls.

Acording to another source the governor general of Nimruz Province, Karim Baraho'i, with some of his forces has reversed his stand and taken position against the Talebans in Chahar Borjak area.

The governor of Nimruz had earlier agreed to the takeover of the province by the Talebans.

Rabbani Urges Reopening of Embassies in Kabul

LD1004174295 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, received for an interview yesterday afternoon the editor of the Saudi magazine 'UKAZ, at the Golkaneh presidential palace, and answered his questions.

The press office of the presidency reported to BAKHTAR that in response to one of the journalist's questions, the esteemed president said: The fighting that has taken place in our country over the past three years has not been a civil war but was imposed on our country by the aliens under various pretexts. We are confident that when foreign interference in the internal affairs of our country ceases, peace and security will be ensured in our country.

Answering another question of the journalist, the esteemed president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan said: Now that by the grace of God the opponents have been driven out of Kabul city, the capital of our beloved country, and complete security has been ensured, there is no reason for the embassies of the friendly countries to stay closed. Therefore, we ask the friendly countries to reopen their embassies in Kabul, and help our afflicted people with the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

Four Russian Fighters Bomb Takhar Province

LD1004170295 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Last night, Russian warplanes bombarded some areas in Chah Ab in Takhar province. Reports received from security sources say that four Su-25 Russian warplanes invaded the air sanctuary of our country in Takhar province at 2345 last night. As a result of this savage attack a number of residences have been damaged. No report has been received about casualties.

Bangladesh

Editorial Considers Visit of Hillary Clinton

BK1004152295 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 4 Apr 95 p 5

[Editorial: "Welcome To Hillary in Bangladesh"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amid the warmest welcome of the people, U.S. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton arrived in Dhaka Sunday [2 April]. This is the first-ever visit to Bangladesh of an American First Lady. Behind the hilarious warmth with which she has been received in Bangladesh is, in the main, the fact that she somehow remains almost naturally identified with this country because, chiefly, of her interest in children and women, or children and their mothers.

And we can assure her she will see quite a few of them (to use an uncharacteristic Bangladeshi understatement). So many of them indeed will come her way, not wholly literally, because she would be moving along roads and in transports that will keep her away from the actual (physical) human landscape represented by those in whom she is so profoundly interested—women and children.

The human scene will be seen replicated nearly all over the South Asian region she has planned to tour—India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh. It wears about the same features to be attractive to those whose feelings for these twin classes of humans are genuine. And we state with a real sense of pride that Mrs. Hillary's are immaculately so, for it has been an integral part not only of her social interests but of her academic ones too. She has allowed them to grow with her, which is what has drawn her so close to the people of this country.

We feel tempted not to leave off and indulge in the generalities of welcome to our honoured guest. We instead are trying to add some fuel to the flames, (if that is the phrase to use). The flame is her warm interest in the welfare of children and women, and the fuel we are trying to provide is to place before her the reality of children and women's problems in Bangladesh. To prevent that almost effortlessly translating into a cliche, we would point out, in a nutshell, that this is a gigantic third world problem, and one as big, if not bigger, for Bangladesh.

We appreciate deeply her interest in Mr. Yunus' Grameen [Rural] Bank and his idea of welfare for women (plus children) as part of a plan to alleviate poverty. It is working well and, we hope, if allowed to operate as it has started to do, it could do a lot to provide relief.

Yet, we do not pretend to accept that this will more than scratch the problem of poverty—or, for that matter, of children and mothers in this country. If, even so much may have been done or is being planned (in theory), so much inevitably remains as the greatest challenge to Afro-Asian LDCs (least developed countries). Bangladesh, like eighteenth century Ireland, is one of them with her women and children. Of Irish poverty, Jonathan Swift has drawn a lurid picture in his classic performance, as the greatest ironist in literature in his Modest Proposal. We have no Bangladeshi edition of Swift, nor has S. [South] Asia.

Literary giants like Swift have long been dead and buried. But the social problem of poverty with the newly created Irelands across the third world remains. These lots of women and children stay at the centre of social development in these poverty-ridden parts of the world. South East Asia including Bangladesh is the most representative part of the region—and the problem. In concrete terms the problems in the main are: literacy, health care, and the decay and death that follows from hunger and undernourishment and so on. It affects nearly 80 percent of the population—only to indicate in passing the actual size of the problem, besides the potential.

The ironic part of the scene is that national governments are, either from misconceived notions of development, inadequacy of resources used as an excuse, or simple lack of interest in the grass-roots welfare problems of the nation, have been found less than interested in overcoming the problem, the Copenhagen summit and the declaration in which it has urged national governments to do at least 20 percent of their spending on poverty notwithstanding.

It is in such facts that Mrs. Hillary will discover her area of action—beyond those of her noble theoretic ones. The great thing about the honoured visiting U.S. First Lady is that at least here is a lady, holding a high socio-political position, interested, beyond question, in a real third world problem. She could, if she willed, do a lot to make the aid receiving 3rd world countries abide by conditions set by giver countries: the main one would be—yes, a string attached to it—that top priority would be given to poverty alleviation in these countries, with tangible results in this respect for eligibility for continued aid.

In a word, social development in these S. Asian countries, is so great a problem that leverages like this need to be used by the World Bank, IMF, and the donor countries. Mrs. Hillary Clinton as the First Lady of America could help a lot in this matter. This we say because we believe she means serious business in respect of welfare of women and children.

India

Helms Gaffe Seen as Symbol of 'Disdain'

BK1104093295 Delhi NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 10 Apr 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Pakistan, Alias India"]

[FBIS Translated Text] No matter how we try to hide our real intentions, unknowingly we commit actions that reveal our real feeling. In a meeting during Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's U.S. visit, such an incident occurred in a most interesting and dramatic way. While introducing Benazir to the members of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the U.S. Senate, its chairman, Mr. Jesse Helms, said that he was honored to welcome the prime minister of India, Benazir Bhutto. Although Benazir did not contradict him, other members did and told Mr. Helms to correct himself since Benazir is not India's, but Pakistan's prime minister. Without being disturbed in the least, Mr. Helms said the mistake would be corrected in the records. He did accept his mistake, but the embarrassment that he should have suffered at committing such a blunder was conspicuously absent in his mannerisms. The casual and listless response of Mr. Helms at being requested to correct his mistake symbolically represents the disdain that the Americans feel towards the South Asian subcontinent region. Perhaps Mr. Helms will realize the gravity of the blunder he committed only when someone introduces Saddam Husayn as the president of the United States of America. Whenever any head of state or prime minister from this sub-continent visits the United States, the American donors invariably behave in an arrogant and supercilious manner while we stand before them like the beggars with our heads bowed and hands extended. This is the reason why we are subjected to such downright insulting and contemptuous behavior. When our prime minister visited the United States, the press and political circles almost took no notice of him and covered his visit in a most casual manner. It is quite possible that his remark might have been made in a lighter vein, but it is difficult to believe that Mr. Helms continued to talk to Benazir believing her to be Narasimha Rao. We do not see such a resemblance between the two prime ministers to cause such momentary confusion. In an attempt to offer a face-saving plea, Mr. Helms explained that he might have mistaken Benazir to be India's prime minister because during her long lasting talks with him she mostly talked about India. Although Mr. Helms' simplicity is matchless, still it is not of that classic category as was shown by a senior official of his own country while introducing the famous Indian author, Sacchidanand Vastsyayan, as the author of the Kamasutra! Even if Benazir was talking to Mr. Helms only about India, was she referring to issues that Narasimha Rao might have referred to? It appears these almost somnolent talks of Mr. Helms have no connection either with sanity or reality. If by chance the reunified and original India prior to 1947 comes back into existence, this democratic country will grant every right to Benazir, or for that matter, to anyone to become prime minister. But will these American arch-priests, who are always scheming to fragment countries, like our complete India? This much is certain, in their subconscious they will reckon Pakistan to be no different from India!

Tarnoff Remarks on Kashmir Policy Welcomed

BK0604134295 Delhi THE PIONEER in English 6 Apr 95 p 8

[Editorial: "US clarifies stand"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The unequivocal statement made by the United States' Under-Secretary of State for Political Affairs, Mr Peter Tarnoff, regarding his country's policy towards Kashmir has come at the most appropriate moment. At a time when the Pakistan Prime Minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, is paying a visit to Washington to seek US mediation on Kashmir, the categorical assurance from Mr Tarnoff that the US will not do so and that there cannot be a "made in USA solution" to the problem, is all the more welcome. Besides the pragmatic approach, it also shows that the US has now come around to the view that it has to deal evenhandedly with both India and Pakistan and a tilt towards the latter will no longer serve its foreign policy objectives. The US official also made it very clear that the Kashmir imbroglio has to be resolved by India and Pakistan bilaterally, and "on their own", he also spoke in favour of a "historic conciliation" between the two countries on the pattern witnessed in other parts of the world.

Mr Tarnoff's remarks acquire significance in the context of the revelation made by Mr PN Dhar, who, as Secretary to the then Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi, had been closely associated with the talks between her and the then Pakistan Prime Minister, ZA Bhutto, at Shimla in 1971. Mr Dhar has now confirmed that both Indira Gandhi and Bhutto had agreed on eventually turning the Line of Control in Kashmir into an international border. That Mr Tarnoff refused to comment on this reflects the current US policy of not favouring a particular solution and leaving the resolution of the dispute to India and Pakistan. Significantly, he also chose not to say anything on the demand for self-determination being raised by Kashmiri militants.

After the disintegration of the Soviet Union and collapse of the socialist system in a number of East European countries, India has truly become nonaligned and the US has nothing to fear from it. On the other hand, the policies of the Pakistan government should be causing concern because they do not help in containing terrorism and proliferation of arms in this region. That Mr Tarnoff chose to describe India as an emerging global power shows that the US wants to make a more realistic appraisal of India's capabilities in the field of science and technology, defence and economy. If it treads the path of economic liberalisation with caution and foresight, the country can really emerge as a global power in the not-too-distant future. It is heartening to note that the official US policy is based on these facts and the impetuosity displayed by Ms Robin Raphel seems to be a thing of the past.

BJP Promises To Build Nuclear Bomb If Elected

BK1004164595 Delhi THE ASIAN AGE in English 4 Apr 95 p 4

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Panaji, 3 April: The Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] National Executive, currently meeting at Goa, adopted a hawkish stand on India's military ambitions. Promising to build a nuclear bomb if voted to power, BJP leaders at the policy-planning session demanded that the union government press ahead with its missile plans.

"There are clear indications that the P.V. Narasimha Rao government has succumbed to U.S. pressures and given up the nuclear option and the development of an indigenous missile system," said the BJP resolution adopted at the meet. The party argued that India's decision to engage in talks on halting production of fissile material for nuclear weapons would place the country's plutonium production under global safeguards, effectively capping the nuclear option.

The party cited senior U.S. defence official Robert Einhorn as saying that India's Agni [fire] missile plan is "now in a period of hibernation" and that "Prithvi [earth] was used in trial stages but not serially produced or deployed." The BJP asked the government for a clarification on the issue, since, they said, it "negated" the assurances which the Prime Minister had given in his Red Fort address in 1994.

The party also criticised "inspired efforts" to offer the "carrot" of a United Nations Security Council seat to India if it gave up its nuclear option and adopted the Missile Technology Control Regime. Whether India signs the nuclear non-proliferation treaty [NPT] or not is not the issue, the party said. Criticising the U.S. for equating India with Pakistan on these issues, the BJP said China, another major power in the region, had to be kept in mind while deciding India's military needs.

Asked if the BJP was not adopting contradictory postures by backing calls for a nuclear-free world while at the same time promising to make India go nuclear, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and senior BJP leader Atal Behari Vajpayee said: "Our stand is not self-contradictory. The whole issue of nuclear power and NPT is contradictory."

Mr. Vajpayee argued that some countries which had stockpiled huge amounts of nuclear material were themselves unfairly asking other countries stop producing the same.

Asked to comment on reports in the Western press that said India has a nuclear bomb, Mr. Vajpayee said: "India does not have a bomb, though we have the capacity, adding, "There is every reason to believe that Pakistan has developed the bomb. Even Washington has reached the conclusion that Pakistan has developed a nuclear bomb."

Mr. Vajpayee stressed that developing a delivery system is as crucial as keeping options open on the nuclear issue. "Both the issues are linked. We are not simply going to make a bomb and then do a pooja [to worship] or say, 'Jai [Hail] Bomb.' It is not an object to which one should be offering prayers," he said.

On the national front, Mr. Vajpayee criticised the Tamil Nadu governor for permitting the prosecution of chief minister Jayalalitha, and charged the Congress of adopting double standards against non-Congress chief ministers. Asked if the BJP was planning to have a poll pact with the Jayalalitha-led AIADMK [All India Anna Dravida Munetra Kazhagam], he said: "We have not given any thought to that matter yet."

In reply to another question, Mr. Vajpayee said Kashmiri leader Shabbir Shah had met him, and that he had asked Shah not to attempt to involve Pakistan in any question linked to Kashmir.

Editorial Urges Only 'Limited Extension'of NPT

BK1104080595 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 11 Apr 95 p 13

[Editorial: "Making nonsense of NPT"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Barely a week before the NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty] review conference is due to begin in New York comes Pakistan's admission that it has been secretly installing with Chinese help a reactor at Khushub, near Sargodha, which will produce substantial quantities of plutonium for assembling powerful and compact bombs. The Washington Post, which revealed the fact to cause some embarrassment for visiting Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, claims US sources as averring that the Americans had been trying for years to stop items being shipped for the Khushub reactor. Pakistan's clandestine efforts to match India's nuclear capability is an old story. Less known is the magnitude of nuclear assistance Pakistan has been receiving from China, which does not deny its close security relations with Islamabad but insists this does not come in the way of improving relations with India. Also not seen in perspective is the consistent US practice of seeing no evils in Pakistan—either when it developed the nuclear bomb during the mid-1980s, or when Islamabad pursued a planned and barely concealed policy of promoting trans-border terrorism in Kashmir. When External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee pointed out that Pakistan's plutonium project has laid bare the failure of the NPT as an instrument to prevent nuclear proliferation, he was not making a new point. Still, since he took the trouble of assembling mediapersons to say so, it must be assumed to be indicative of India's stand on the proliferation question. Not being a signatory to the NPT India has the great responsibility of not only encouraging the non-aligned group of nations party to the treaty to demand an end to discrimination, but confront the nuclear weapon States like China and the US with charges of double standards. With persistent overt and covert support to Pakistan in its development of nuclear capability on the plea that India has provoked Islamabad into this, the US and China have all but forfeited the right to engage New Delhi in a non-proliferation dialogue. Ms. Bhutto's admission of possessing a plutonium plant has posed some serious questions for India. Since on its own admission Pakistan's nuclear weapons programme is entirely turned towards India, New Delhi has to decide on an effective deterrent. This is all the more necessary because the five nuclear weapon-powers have refused to commit themselves to offer protection to non-nuclear weapon countries subjected to nuclear attacks if they are not NPT members. India should advise its non-aligned colleagues to support no more than a limited extension of the NPT ties to a time-framed elimination of weapons to be verified universally. The NAM [Nonaligned Movement] will sign its own death warrant if it signed on the dotted lines as dictated by the five nuclear weapon-powers.

Iran

Iranian, Turkmen, Armenian Ministerial Session Held

LD0804110295 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The first foreign ministerial session of Iran, Turkmenistan, and Armenia was held in Tehran today. High-ranking economic officials from the three countries were present at the meeting in which the expansion of economic ties was reviewed. During the meeting, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati referred to the significance of the Bafq-Bandar 'Abbas railway and said: The Islamic Republic of Iran gives priority to the development and expansion of those domestic projects that directly affect regional development. He added: Iran hopes that, in line with the expansion of multilateral cooperation, regional conflicts would end as soon as possible. According to a Central News Unit report, the Armenian foreign minister expressed the hope that economic relations would expand among regional countries. He also praised Iran's efforts for the resolution of regional problems.

Morteza Mohammad-Khan, the minister of economic affairs and finance, as well as members of the three countries' representative delegations were present at the meeting.

Iran, Turkmenistan, Ukraine Hold Cooperation Talks

Ukraine's Udovenko Arrives

LD0804105795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ukrainian Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko, heading a high-ranking political-economic delegation, arrived in Tehran to participate in the a tripartite session on economic cooperation among the Islamic Republic of Iran, Turkmenistan, and Ukraine.

The first session - aimed at expanding economic cooperation, making use of existing resources and capabilities - will begin this evening in Tehran.

The Ukrainian foreign minister is accompanied by that country's oil, industries, and transport ministers.

Velayati on Ties With Ukraine, Turkmenistan

LD0804191595 Tehran IRNA in English 1823 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 8, IRNA—The Foreign Minister of Iran 'Ali Akbar Velayati said at the tripartite session of Iran, Turkmenistan and Ukraine Saturday that Iran looks forward to broadening relations with the newly independent republics to its north.

He said the friendly relations between Iran and the former Soviet republics offers a good model for coexistence and is a guarantee for mutual good relations between the countries of the region.

Velayati said the efforts of Iran within the framework of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and other organizations and the cooperation between the Caspian Sea littoral states aim at social welfare and regional security.

He said Iran beilieves that such cooopeation will not be to the disadvantage of any other country.

Velayati said Iran, Turkmenistan and Ukraine have very good industrial potential and that they could undertake joint projects as well as exchange goods and offer a novel model for cooperation for other countries to follow.

He said the countries of the region would also cast their banking and customs regulations as well as exchange data and establish contact between their chambers of commerce as part of that cooperation.

He expressed hope that the delegations of the three countries in their various committees would adopt decisions for brigning those countries closer together.

Ukraine Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko and Turkmenistan Foreign Minister Boris Shikhmuradov are participating in the trilateral session which started here today.

Iran To Build Cable Network in Turkmenistan

LD0804193295 Tehran IRNA in English 1840 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 8, IRNA—Minister of Posts, Telegraph and Telephones [PTT], Mohammad Gharazi said here on Saturday [8 April] that his ministry would implement a 65-km optic fiber cable-network in Turkmenistan if the necessary credit was provided.

Addressing a press conference upon his return from the Turkmen capital, Ashgabat, he said the optic fiber cabling is part of a 17,000-km network linking Asia to Europe.

Gharazi said that he held talks with the Turkmen president and the minister of telecommunications on feasibility of building 65 kms of the optic fiber cable system and 400 kms of microwaves network between Peshuz and Ashgabat and export of telecommunications equipments to expand urban telecommunications in Turkmenistan.

He said 14 countries are to be linked to the Asia-Europe telecommunications network. He said the countries located on the main line are China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Iran, Turkey, Ukraine, Poland and Germany while extension lines are to be provided to the republics of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Armenia and Tajikistan.

The Iranian telecommunications trade fair in Ashgabat was welcomed by the host country, added Ghazazi.

The PTT minister heading a delegation paid a five-day visit to Turkmenistan at the invitation of his Turkmen counterpart.

Ministers Discuss Gas Pipeline

LD0804213695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The first tripartite session held by Iran, Turkmenistan, and Ukraine opened in Tehran on Saturday. It was attended by the foreign ministers of the three countries. At the meeting, which was also attended by our country's industries minister, Mr. ['Ali Akbar] Velayati, the foreign minister, described the excellent relations between the three countries and the closeness between their presidents and other officials as an indication of the political determination of Tehran, Ashgabat, and Kiev to expand technical cooperation between the three countries.

Referring to Iran's initiative and efforts to expand economic ties within the framework of regional cooperation, Mr. Velayati said: The Islamic Republic of Iran stresses the point that this kind of cooperation is to everyone's advantage and it is prepared to consider any proposal about regional cooperation in a positive light in view of its principled policy of giving priority to such cooperation.

The session continued with the foreign ministers of Turkmenistan and Ukraine speaking about their own views in this regard.

At the end of the session, the foreign ministers of Ukraine, Iran, and Turkmenistan held a meeting in which they discussed important political and economic issues of interest. At this meeting, the foreign ministers of the three countries described their session as an important stride toward the establishment of regional stability, the expansion of friendly ties, and the consolidation of mutual trust between countries, and they welcomed the holding of similar sessions with other countries.

At the meeting, the Turkmen foreign minister declared his country's strong determination to construct the pipeline for exporting Turkmen gas to Europe via Iran. The Ukrainian foreign minister, too, expressed his country's interest in taking part in the construction of the Turkmen gas export pipeline and, stressing the importance of the linking of the railways of Iran and Turkmenistan, he added: Ukraine considers Iran to be the most suitable route for the transit of goods to Central Asia.

Mr. Velayati, for his part, announced our country's willingness to provide any kind of facility to the newly independent countries and to cooperate with all interested countries.

Velayati, Ukraine's Udovenko Discuss NPT

LD0904125995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ukrainian foreign minister, Mr. Hennadiy Udovenko—who is visiting Tehran at the head of a high-ranking economic—political delegation to attend the Iran, Turkmenistan, and Ukraine tripartite meeting—met Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati this morning and discussed mutual, regional, and international cooperation.

At the meeting, the Ukrainian foreign minister considered the exchange of high-ranking delegations by the two countries for expanding bilateral ties as positive and he praised the Islamic Republic of Iran's stance regarding Ukraine.

He added: Multilateral cooperation is not only in accord with the interests of countries and assists their national economic development and growth, but also will strengthens peace and stability in the region and in the world.

Mr. Velayati described the two countries' relations as important and expressed satisfaction over the broadening of bilateral ties.

Regarding the two countries' cooperation at the next session of the disarmament talks in New York, our country's foreign minister said: The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that all states should sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Criticizing America for its support of the Zionist regime in confronting the International Atomic Energy Agency, he described America's propaganda against Iran as malicious and added: It is a duty for us and other peaceloving states to stem that.

Following Mr. Velayati's remarks, the Ukrainian foreign minister, Mr Udovenko, confirming the Islamic Republic of Iran's stance regarding the banning of production and proliferation of nuclear weapons, said: We too believe that all states should sign that treaty.

Ukrainian Minister Calls For Oil Ties

LD0904181595 Tehran IRNA in English 1609 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April, 9, (IRNA)—Visiting Ukrainian Oil Minister, Yevgen Devzhok in a meeting Sunday with his Iranian counterpart, Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i called for Ukraine's contrubution in Iran's oil projects.

In the meeting, Ukrainian oil minster, elaborating the situation of fuel and energy in Ukraine, referred to Ukraine's various possibilities in different areas in oil and gas industries.

Devzhok suggested that a work group should be set up in order to review the details of cooperation in the framework of Iran-Ukraine joint commission.

Aghazadeh refering to the backgrounds of Tehran-Kiev talks on setting up a consortium consisting of Iran and Ukraine for participating in the projects of tranferring oil and gas via Ukraine to Europe and providing Ukraine's fuel needs, hoped that two countries by proper usage of their existing possibilities, abilities and capacities cooperate more toward Tehran-Kiev interests.

The details of Iran-Ukraine agreements were reviewed in a separate meeting by two countries' experts.

Habibi, Ukraine's Udovenko Discuss Ties

LD0904190895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ukrainian Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko met First Vice President Hasan Habibi this afternoon. He submitted a written message from the Ukrainian president to our country's president in which Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani is once again invited to visit Ukraine and said: The expansion of ties with Iran and the understandings achieved in the tripartite meetings and talks [with Turkmenistan] are important to the Ukraine Government.

The Ukrainian foreign minister stressed his country's willingness to expand relations with Iran in the fields of energy, oil, and gas.

At the meeting, Mr. Habibi underlined our country's mutual willingness to cooperate with Ukraine, and, referring to the positive results achieved in terms of economic growth in our country under the first [five-year] plan, he said: In view of the considerable increase in Iran's non-oil exports, strong economic ties can be established between the two countries. He added: It is our country's political will to expand all-sided cooperation with Ukraine, and we believe that the expansion and consolidation of friendly relations in the region will increase as the existing conflicts in the region are resolved.

The first vice president also stressed our country's willingness to help resolve regional problems and expressed the hope that countries that have good political relations can also establish good economic relations in view of the existing vast quantities of raw material and traditional and industrial products.

Rafsanjani Meets Turkmen Minister

LD1004123795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today received Boris Shikhmuradov, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Turkmenistan, who was carrying a written message from his country's president.

At the meeting the Turkmen foreign minister conveyed the sincere and friendly greetings of his country's president and people and spoke about the importance of the Bandar 'Abbas-Bafq railway project and the desirable international reception for the project.

He said that Iran's initiative in holding the tripartite negotiations in Tehran was very positive. He said that because of its special position in the region, Iran should participate directly in the exploitation of oil in the Caspian Sea. We also hope that with Iranian cooperation, we will have a tripartite cooperation with India, he added.

In turn Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed the role and the important place of the tripartite summit in Tehran and hoped that regional countries will bring their views closer and will start new ways of cooperating in the international field.

He said that regional countries could expand their relations and trade and take the initiative Rn opening ways to international markets, and that Iran had suitable means for expanding such cooperation.

The president said the start of the Sarakhs railway and the holding of joint exhibitions by regional countries were useful ways of implementing the expansion of relations with Turkmenistan and other Central Asian countries.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed the need for cooperation between beneficiary countries in exploiting oil in the Caspian Sea. He said that having correct policies on the issue, taking into account the rights of all Caspian Sea littoral states, defining the legal status of the sea, and strengthening regional cooperation will prevent world powers imposing policies that serve their interests.

At the meeting the president also expressed satisfaction over the increasing expansion of relations between Iran and Turkmenistan and said that the Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes the expansion of cooperation in every field in which Turkmenistan has an interest.

Various Accords Signed With Ukraine

LD1004140595 Tehran IRNA in English 1340 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April, 10, IRNA—The visiting Ukrainian foreign minister, Hennadiy Udovenko announced here Sunday that 24 agreements have been inked between the two countries in various fields of economy, politics and culture.

He told IRAN newspaper that the political will in both countries is based on continuation and expansion of relations in different sectors.

He underlined that the two republics had the same views on regional issues particularly on signing the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

The Ukrainian foreign minister refuted the claim concerning U.S. pressure exerted on Ukraine to decrease its relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He reiterated that the two countries have inked a number of oil agreements which will be put into operation soon.

Meanwhile, in an exclusive interview with the English-language IRAN NEWS published Monday, Udovenko underlined that Iran plays a very important role in the new trilateral cooperation between Iran, Turkmenistan and Ukraine.

He added that the two-day long talks have been 'very positive' and will result in the establishment of valuable regional cooperation between the three conuntries.

Among the many issues discussed, the most prominent was the agreement on this cooperation, the foreign minister said.

He cited the pending natural gas pipeline from Turkmenistan via Iran and Turkey to Europe as well as the construction of a railway between Turkmenistan and Iran and its extension via Turkey to the Ukraine as specific projects to explore.

Udovenko further expressed the Ukraine's refusal to appropriate nuclear weapons and cited his country's signing of the NPT as reflective of this stance.

The daily quoted him as reaffirming his belief that Iran is a vital component of a successful regional cooperation and has thus far been an active member which will continue to play an important role in the development of what has been initiated here.

The Persian-language daily IRAN, in its Monday issue, quoted Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati as saying that Tehran-Kiev cooperation would help technological cooperation as well as the expansion of multilateral and regional cooperation including the trilateral cooperation.

He told Iran that the fundamentals of the trilateral economic cooperation is based on transfer of Turkmen gas to Ukraine and paying a part of the gas price to the Islamic Republic of Iran in the form of joint projects as well as the sale of agricultural and industrial products.

Tripartite Session Ends; Memorandum Signed

NC1004093295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The tripartite session for economic cooperation among Iran, Ukraine, and Turkmenistan concluded last night with the signing of a memorandum of understanding and the issuing of a joint statement.

In the joint statement signed by the foreign ministers of the three countries, the objectives of the session were described as broadening political, economic, scientific, and technical cooperation and using the economic capabilities of the three countries, expanding friendly relations, and agreeing on the need to consolidate regional peace and stability.

Similarly, the three countries expressed their willingness to export their fuel resources, products, and services and to implement industrial projects. According to the agreements reached, the second tripartite session for cooperation will be convened in two months in Ashgabat, the capital of Turkmenistan.

According to this report, at the conclusion of this session Foreign Minister Dr. Velayati deemed the most important part of the memorandum of understanding the agreement among the various sides regarding the exchange of goods and services between Iran and Ukraine and Iran and Turkmenistan, from the point where gas is transported from Turkmenistan to Ukraine.

The Ukrainian foreign minister also stated: Iran, Turkmenistan, and Ukraine enjoy very strong economic capabilities. Despite this, joint efforts were necessary to create the right conditions and the Tehran session has proved instrumental in this regard.

The Turkmenistan foreign minister also told correspondents that the Tehran session was extremely successful.

Official Notes Growth of Tehran-Moscow Ties

LD1004181495 Tehran IRNA in English 1736 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 10, IRNA—Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American Affairs Mahmud Va'ezi, said Iran-Russia relations are growing and the two countries are willing to keep their mutual commitments.

In an exclusive interview with the Persian daily IRAN, he noted that economic and regional cooperation between Iran and Russia was not limited to the nuclear field.

He stressed that Tehran and Moscow could boost ties in many areas provided Russia was committed to its ties with Iran in the new atmosphere of cooperation.

Despite the biased propaganda of the U.S. and Israel, Va'ezi continued, Tehran-Moscow cooperation is aimed at peaceful purposes and the agreement is in conformity with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Therefore, there is no impediment for Tehran-Moscow cooperation in view of international regulations, he added.

Noting that U.S. claims are aimed at exerting pressure on Iran, he remarked that "while inspectors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) have confirmed Iran's peaceful nuclear programme, the U.S. is still insisting on its hollow claims."

The deputy foreign minister referred to grounds for cooperation between Iran and Russia as being "broad" and noted that the two countries were moving towards expansion and strengthening of mutual ties.

Regretting the cancellation of Iran's contract with the Azerbaijan oil consortium, he said cooperation between Iran and Azerbaijan is not limited to this agreement and the two countries, due to their historic and national affinities, enjoy other areas of coordination as well.

Va'ezi also emphasized that Iran's foreign policy has always favoured strengthening of ties with other states, and said Iran, naturally never expected such a move by Azerbaijan because it practically damages the independence of that country.

NPT, Israel's Nuclear Weapons Viewed

LD0704152695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Four joint nuclear powers of the world, the U.S., Russia, Britain, and France, on Thursday 6 April, released a statement in Geneva, declaring that they would prevent the deployment of atomic weapons against all non-nuclear countries joining the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT]. In the statement the four countries have stressed their relative commitment to extending help to any non-nuclear countries victimized or threatened to the attacks by nuclear powers.

It is noteworthy that with the cessation of the expiry of the validity of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the big nuclear powers attempt to encourage the Third World and the non-nuclear countries to accept the unlimited extension of the Nuclear Non- Proliferation Convention prior to the outset of the revision meeting of the Convention due to begin 17 April by offering these commitments.

Informed observers hold that the world nuclear powers' commitment to other countries has no executive guarantee. As experience has shown, a number of these big powers, especially the U.S., have repeatedly trampled upon international commitments and laws when these did not secure their illegitimate interests.

A clear example of such treatment is America's posturing towards Israel which possesses tens of nuclear weapons, and the U.S. administration and other nuclear powers fail to exert pressure on Tel Aviv to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. They even do not prevent Israel's nuclear tests. This is at the time when at present Arab countries participating in the Middle East peace talks in progress with the intervention of the U.S. evaluate the compromise with Israel in conditions when Tel Aviv fails to adhere to the Treaty as being to the detriment of their peace and security.

Dual and partial treatment of nuclear powers, especially the U.S., towards the use of nuclear energy has caused many Third World and non-nuclear countries to view with suspicion the commitments of the world nuclear powers. These are important questions which the organizers of the meeting of revision and extension of the Convention of Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty should provide answers to. Foregoing this, the meeting will not obtain the predetermined objectives.

U.S. Said Trying To Fix Foreign Policy 'Damage'

LD1004121795 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0955 GMT 10 Apr 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Now that a few days have passed since the start of the United States' noisy propaganda in connection with nuclear weapons in Iran, the confusion and ignorance of U.S. Democrats regarding that country's foreign policy have become clearer than ever. In the latest installment of this story, the U.S. vice president has denied that country issued ultimatums to Russia and has blatantly withdrawn remarks made by White House officials and published in THE NEW YORK TIMES.

It is clear that the leaders of the Democratic Party, who are extremely worried about their party's fate in the next elections, have embarked on a new attempt to patch up the problems they have created in their relations with Russia.

In reality, the Democrats, who now form the minority in the American Congress, do not wish to be blamed for the coldness and gloominess in ties with Russia and its allies. On the other hand, the opposition felt in some domestic U.S. circles to Washington's adoption of the same propaganda policies as the Zionist regime has meant that the recent sensationalism suggesting that Iran is trying to obtain a nuclear weapon has been reined in to some extent.

It is clear in this regard that public opinion and circles affiliated with the party opposed to the Democrats want to see Washington follow independent and national policies and that they, therefore, have announced their displeasurer about continued adherence to the short-term policies associated with the occupying Zionist regime. According to this position, in their past propaganda against Iran, the Democrats have chosen a path that runs contrary to America's national and regional interests and, by supporting the occupying Tel Aviv regime, they have placed the United States against more than 1 billion Muslims in more than 53 countries.

It should, of course, be said that Washington's adoption of new positions and some of the retreats, which have been expressed by silence, may repair some of the damage. Nonetheless, the domestic situation of the Democratic Party and Washington's international failures during the past two years mean that the damage cannot easily be undone.

U.S. Oil Sanction Efforts 'Doomed To Fail'

LD1004171995 Tehran IRNA in English 1654 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 10, IRNA—A senior Foreign Ministry official commented here Monday [10 April] that U.S. efforts for oil sanctions against Iran were doomed to fail.

Deputy foreign minister for Euro-American Affairs, Mahmud Va'ezi, said the only losers in these sanctions were American oil companies.

He added that Iran has many friends in Europe and Southeast Asia, and that oil was a commodity which would always command customers.

Vaezi noted that the U.S. has proved in many cases especially those concerning Iran that it looks after its own profits at the expense of other advanced countries, a fact, which many european and Southeast Asian states are evident of.

He stated that Islamic Iran has proved over the last 16 years that it can flourish independently without the need of the U.S.

The Foreign Ministry deputy stressed that thanks to people's presence and political and economic preparedness in the country, the latest machinations of the U.S. could never succeed.

Islamic Leader Threatens To Rocket Israeli Settlements

NC0704184195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Husayn al-Musawi, leader of the Islamic Amal Movement, warned the Zionist entity today that if the Zionist enemy continues its acts of aggression against south Lebanon, the Islamic Resistance

Movement will pound the Zionist settlements in the north of occupied Palestine with rockets. He stressed that the Zionist aggression against the villages of south Lebanon and their innocent people will not go unpunished.

Al-Musawi blamed the United States for the Zionist entity's crimes in south Lebanon. He expressed his resentment at international forums' silence about these crimes.

Iraqi Envoy Seeks Tehran's Help in Lifting Sanctions

LD0804193695 Tehran IRNA in English 1907 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 8, IRNA—The Iraqi charge d'affaires to Tehran Salah Nouri al-Samarmad here today met member of the Majles foreign policy commission Seyyed Raja'i Khorasani, and sought Iran's support to lift the United Nations sanctions against Iraq.

The Iranian official told the Iraqi charge d'affaires that the situation in Iraq was the result of haphazard policies previously adopted and followed by the Iraqi Government.

He said the key to solving Iraq's problem was not with Iran but with the U.N. Security Council which, he said, was apparently still not convinced about Iraq's good intentions.

The Iranian official, in the meanwhile, expressed hope that the countries of the region would adopt a united stand in relation to the presence in the region of foreign powers.

Yazdi on Hajj Disavowal Ceremonies, U.S. 'Propaganda'

LD0704110795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A large number of people took part in Friday prayers in Tehran which were held simultaneously with the rest of the country. Tehran Friday prayers were led by Ayatollah Yazdi, the head of the Judiciary.

In his Friday prayer sermons, the acting Friday imam of Tehran referred to the guidelines issued by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the esteemed leader of the Islamic Revolution, in his Nowruz message. Stressing the need for the precise implementation of those guidelines and observing frugality by the nation and the government in all fields, Ayatollah Yazdi referred to some great economic and developmental projects which have been implemented in the country and said that they provide hope for a bright future.

Ayatollah Yazdi then referred to hajj ceremonies and the need for the participation of the pilgrims to the House of God in the ceremonies of the disavowal of the infidels which was stressed in the remarks of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the guardian of the cause of Muslims, to the officials in charge of organizing hajj ceremonies. Ayatollah Yazdi called on the Muslims of the world, especially the Iranians, to perform the hajj ceremonies in keeping with its Abrahamic traditions [reference to Mecca's Ka'bah being built by Abraham who also went through the ritual of smashing all the idols, thus providing the grounds for expressing disavowal of infidels] [passage omitted]

In continuation of his second sermon, the head of the Judiciary referred to the recent extensive propaganda by the American government against the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said: Such stances demonstrate the ignorance of the American officials about the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the region and the Islamic world. Referring to the failure of international organizations and assemblies to deal with the nuclear arsenal of the Zionist regime, he said: Everybody knows that if there is any danger threatening the region it comes solely from the Zionist regime. That regime refuses to sign any treaty about the non-production of weapons of mass destruction. [passage omitted]

Hajj Chief: Saudi Arabia Disagrees on Quota of Pilgrims

LD1004122795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Mohammad Hoseyn Reza'i, head of the hajj and pilgrimage organization, has said that negotiations have been held with Saudi officials and that the negotiations have been beneficial.

He stated that passports have been issued and visas obtained, and that accommodation will be provided for the pilgrims. He added that the government will be providing about $66 million for the pilgrims' use and for their expenses.

The head of the hajj and pilgrimage organization said that Iranian pilgrims receive better accommodation than pilgrims from other Mulism countries. He added that in private discussions the Saudi Arabian Government speaks highly of Iranian pilgrims and some Muslims countries have asked for Iran's experience in the organization of their pilgrimage.

Referring to Iran's quota in the pilgrimage, he said that, despite agreements between the foreign ministers of the two countries in 1991 on the figure of 110,000 Iranian pilgrims, Saudi Arabia is stressing the figure of 69,000 pilgrims and does not even agree with our proposal that Iran should use the quota of those countries which do not have the ability to send pilgrims. He said that Iran is prepared to send more Iranian pilgrims to the hajj and that sufficient means exist, should the Saudis agree.

Pakistan

Bhutto's Meeting With U.S. Officials Detailed

BK1104031195 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Secretary Najmuddin Shaikh told reporters at a briefing in Washington that the prime minister's visit to the United States has ushered in an improvement in Pakistan-U.S. relations. He said that relations between the two countries will receive a further boost and that the frigidness in their ties has now ended.

The foreign secretary was giving details of the prime minister's meetings with senior U.S. officials and leaders of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. He said that Peter Tarnoff, acting [qaim maqam] U.S. secretary of state, expressed appreciation for the steps taken by the Pakistani Government to check terrorism and drug trafficking. Tarnoff later had a separate meeting with the foreign secretary, during which he said the United States wants to strengthen relations with Pakistan. They exchanged views on various ways to expand relations between the two countries. The Afghan dispute was also reviewed during the talks, with both sides agreeing to support UN efforts to establish peace in Afghanistan so as to enable all Afghan groups, including the Taleban leaders, to agree on a power sharing formula. The U.S. secretary of state was also told that the process of investment in Pakistan is continuing with full force despite the law and order incidents in Karachi.

In reply to a question, Najmuddin Shaikh told reporters that the U.S. Administration is ready to help Pakistan and India resolve their bilateral disputes, including the core issue of Kashmir.

Commentaries View Bhutto's Washington Visit

Opposition to Pressler Amendment Seen

BK0804103095 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 7 Apr 95

[Commentary by Syed Mahbub Ali]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto during her current visit to the United States has had meetings with top Congressmen. They included among others the chairman of House Foreign Relations Committee, Benjamin Gilman, and former chairman Lee Hamilton. The prime minister saw a consensus among the Congressmen that Pressler Amendment should be done away with as it is a discriminatory law and has failed to advance America's nonproliferation concerns. The change in American thinking has not been brought about overnight. It seems that the American leadership had realized soon after the enactment of the Pressler Amendment that it is not serving its purpose.

Pakistan never doubted the sincerity of the United States in trying to control or at least reduce proliferation of nuclear weapons, but unfortunately the law, which was adopted for this purpose, was discriminatory. It banned supply of arms and economic aid for Pakistan. On the other hand, the law left India free to carry on its nuclear program with military overtones. Soon after her arrival in the United States, Benazir Bhutto explained that the Pressler Amendment had not served the cause of nonproliferation, but it only damaged Pakistan-U.S. relations. The United States also refused to supply the F-16 aircraft in spite of the fact that Pakistan had paid in advance full price of these aircraft. Pakistan never challenged the right of the Americans to enact whatever law they think serves their interests. However, Pakistan has been forthright in its stance about the American law. Our prime minister, our foreign minister and other spokesmen of the Pakistan Government have been pointing out that law is discriminatory as it applies only to Pakistan. Pakistan has also never doubted the American sincerity of purpose of controlling or reducing the proliferation of nuclear weapons. At the same time, Pakistan has been pointing out that proliferation in South Asia is not confined to a single country. It is a regional problem and should be taken on regional basis.

In the past, Pakistan had come out with a number of proposals to make South Asia a nuclear weapons free zone. It is only India which has been standing in the way. The ground reality in South Asia today is the same as it was before the Pressler Amendment was enacted. A sensitive issue like Kashmir remains unresolved, resulting in great tension in the area. The American Congressmen in their meeting with the prime minister have come out with strong words against the Pressler Amendment. Their words indicate the thinking of the newly elected American Congress. Congressman Dana Rohrabacher called the Pressler Amendment outrageous and reminded that Pakistan not only helped the United States during the Cold War, but also cooperated with it during the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan at a great risk.

It is the Americans who can do away with the Pressler Amendment, but there is no denying the fact that the Pakistan Government has pleaded its case forcefully and succeeded in convincing the American Congressmen that the law is not only discriminatory against Pakistan, but it is also not in the American interest.

'Positive Results' Viewed

BK1004161195 Islamabad PAKISTAN in Urdu 10 Apr 95 p 4

[Editorial: "Acknowledging the Ineffectiveness of the Pressler Amendment"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's visit to the United States is yielding positive results. She has gone there with the objective of securing more trade than aid. As a result of her initial discussions with investors, agreements have been signed for investment of another $6 billion in Pakistan.

Meanwhile, the U.S. officials have started acknowledging openly that the Pressler Amendment has proved ineffective. Defense Secretary William Perry has described the amendment as legislation which discriminates against Pakistan. Perry has said that since the legislation has not helped in achieving the desired objective, there is no justification for keeping this amendment intact and that it should be abolished. President Clinton's view is more or less the same, but the issue needs to be settled by the U.S. Congress.

During her meeting with Perry, the prime minister conveyed Pakistan's concern over Indian atrocities in occupied Kashmir and India's missile program, and emphasized that American military aid to Pakistan should be resumed. Economic and military aid for Pakistan has remained suspended for the past four years because of the Pressler Amendment. In the meantime, India has not accepted any Pakistani proposals on nuclear nonproliferation. The prime minister also took up the issue of the F-16 aircraft. Here again, the Pressler Amendment stands in the way of delivering these planes. Perry, on the basis of President Clinton's views that restrictions imposed on Pakistan should be reviewed, has expressed the hope that some way will be found soon. There is also the possibility that if the F-16 planes are not delivered to Pakistan, then the money paid for them will be returned. The training of Pakistani military personnel in the United States has also remained suspended for the past four years solely because of the Pressler Amendment. Pakistan's position has been that the Pressler Amendment has failed to yield the desired result. The race to manufacture nuclear weapons continues in South Asia. Despite repeated warnings, India is making nuclear weapons as well as missiles, and is also engaged in storing and installing them as it pleases, threatening the security of South Asia. The American leaders will be able to make positive decisions only if they keep these realities in mind and do not equivocate.

The prime minister also sought American mediation on the Kashmir issue, but Perry reiterated his earlier statement that the United States will help and support Pakistan and India and assist in the resolution of the Kashmir dispute if they agree to hold bilateral negotiations and their leaders are ready to come to the negotiating table. It is necessary for the American leadership to view the facts in their true perspective and accept the truth, rising above any expediency.

According to informed sources, there is no chance of the Pressler Amendment being repealed at this moment, but Pakistan may be able to acquire spare parts for its Air Force. The U.S. aid to Pakistan may also be resumed partially, which many observers believe may open the door for the total resumption of aid.

U.S. Mediation Sought in Region

BK1104073695 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 11 Apr 95 p 6

[Editorial: "US and S. Asia"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Speaking on "Pakistan's Foreign Policy in the post-Cold War Period" at Princeton University, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto called upon the United States to intercede as activity [as published] in South Asia as it had done in the Middle East. She suggested that the United States make a "formal proposal" for multilateral talks on South Asia with the participation of the five permanent members of the Security Council and other major powers like Japan and Germany. This forum, she added, should also address the threat posed by the increasing imbalance in conventional weapons between India and Pakistan. Lashing out at the Pressler Amendment which she termed a "Pakistan-specific" law, the Prime Minister said that Pakistan had not made a nuclear device nor tested one and yet it had been singled out for application of the discriminatory Amendment.

Pakistan's stand on nuclear non-proliferation has all along been clear and unambiguous. A pioneer signatory to the ban on biological weapons and one of the architects of the chemical weapons conventions, its contribution to non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction has been significant. It has time and again proposed the creation of a nuclear weapons free zone as also a zero-missile regime in South Asia. On the contrary India exploded a nuclear device way back in 1974 and has now developed and deployed a short-range missile, Prithvi, which is capable of carrying a nuclear warhead. Besides, India today has the second largest army in the world and during the past decade has been the world's largest importer of arms. New Delhi's hegemonic ambitions are not longer a secret and all its neighbours including Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh and the Maldives are under constant threat. By adopting a rigid and belligerent posture on the Kashmir issue, India is adding to the miseries of the people in the sub-continent and aggravating tensions in the region. In these connection the attitude of the major powers is disappointing. By failing to censure India for its gross violations of human rights in Kashmir or pressing it to settle the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions on the subject, South Asia is being consigned to continued tension, which may culminate in a renewed arms build-up and a nuclear and missile race. A great responsibility falls upon the shoulders of the United States. If the Clinton Administration adopts an evenhanded policy in accordance with its declared, goals, it should seriously consider convening a multi-lateral conference, as proposed by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, to discuss matters and extricate South Asia from the maze into which it has been consigned by India's ambitious and inflexible attitude. The talks could focus on the resolution of regional disputes, in particular Kashmir, and address the issues of conventional arms control and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The world at large, and the sole superpower in particular, must realise that there can be no peace in South Asia unless the Kashmir issue is settled in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions. Otherwise, arsenals will continue to expand and nuclear devices and missiles will keep proliferating.

Reaction to India's Induction of Prithvi Missile

Commentary Assails Timing

BK1004091295 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 9 Apr 95

[Commentary by A.B.S. Jafri]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It has now more or less been officially announced in New Delhi that India has inducted the Prithvi missile into its regular armed forces. A unit complete with full complement of troops and technicians has been set up in the central Indian city of Hyderabad. The location of the unit is not without significance. The manufacturers of the Prithvi—the Bharat Dynamics—belong to the Hyderabad city.

It is claimed that the Prithvi is a versatile missile, much more efficient than the Russian-made Scud missiles used by Iraq during the Gulf war. It can carry conventional as well as nuclear warheads with greater precision than any of its rivals. Reports say that the Prithvi is capable of delivering chemical payload also. Its strike range is said to be around 250 km. With its on-board computer facility this missile is in a class all its own.

That India had been feverishly working on the Prithvi has been known to the world for a long time. Pakistan has been particularly apprehensive for obvious reasons. Prithvi's range speaks for itself; it can reach the heart of Pakistan. With its nuclear and chemical capability in addition to the conventional, the Prithvi poses a direct threat to the security of Pakistan.

The full measure of its threat will be clear when it is viewed in the perspective of India's existing nuclear capability. India exploded a weapons-class nuclear device 21 years ago. It has been working on it, refining and enhancing nuclear weapons technology. That India possesses any number of nuclear bombs which represent considerable advance on the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atom bombs is no longer any secret. What nobody can tell with certainty and precision is the number of such devices available for instant deployment. One thing is pretty certain, however: India's nuclear strike capability is fearsome. Given the 250 km range Prithvi missile and the existing stock of nuclear bombs, India emerges on the South Asian scene as a great threat to peace. This threat grows in gravity as it accumulates the bombs and delivery systems.

The fact that the Prithvi has been inducted at all should ring alarm bells all over the world. But the timing of this induction cannot be without some significance. The prime minister of Pakistan is currently visiting the United States and holding wide-ranging bilateral talks with the leaders of the United States. She is scheduled to have a meeting with President Clinton on Tuesday, 11 April. Indications available so far suggest that Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto will be able to find a new, endurable basis for Pakistan's relationship with the United States. The announcement of the induction of a weapon of such mass destructiveness as the Prithvi at this moment cannot but be designed to throw spanner in the works. But that is typical of India. Whatever effect it might have in Islamabad or presumably in Washington it would not be one of total surprise, but that it would cause the dismay in both capitals goes without saying.

The Cold War is over and the world is trying to turn a new leaf. The emphasis of all peace-loving powers is on the movement toward shedding weapons and diverting resources toward welfare-oriented investment in human development. As far as Pakistan is concerned, it offered to accede to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] from the very first day. The only condition was that India, too, renounce its nuclear arms and weapons technology. Pakistan's offer stands, there has never been any doubt. India has not only refused to countenance the idea of signing the NPT, it has gone on developing nuclear weapons with ever-accelerating speed and expanse. India has often pleaded that it must have nuclear weapons capability because of its perceived threat from the north. But with the 250 km range Prithvi missile and its nuclear capability, it is totally irrelevant in the context of India's neighbor to the north. It makes sense only in Pakistan's context, and what a terrible sense it makes should be clear to all.

'Serious Implications' Viewed

BK1004072095 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 10 Apr 95 p 10

[Editorial: "Prithvi's induction"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] According to a report appearing in the Indian newspaper, THE ASIAN AGE, the short-range nuclear-capable missile Prithvi has been inducted into the Indian army. This obviously has serious implications in terms of Pakistan's security as it brings a number of important military and civilian targets within range of the missile which has the added advantage of being launched from a difficult-to-target mobile carrier and a degree of accuracy that derives from an on-board computer. So far, the Indian government had desisted from going into serial production of the missile that has already undergone a number of tests, not least because the US had apparently conveyed to India its concern that is such an event Pakistan was likely to place greater reliance on the Chinese M-11 missiles to ensure its security, and as such a destabilising missile race in the subcontinent could rapidly ensue. In sum this was apparently the message given when the Indian premier visited the United States last year and more recently when the US under-secretary for political affairs came to Delhi. The Indian government has, however, been deliberately vague about the exact status of the missile while government spokesmen have indicated on more than one occasion that it is likely to be deployed. It appears that India has sought to derive considerable mileage from the development of the missile by linking it to the Kashmir issue, for instance. Reportedly, the US agreed not to pressurise India on Kashmir in return for a freeze on the Prithvi and Agni (intermediate range missile) programmes.

Now, it seems India has decided to go ahead with the serial production of the missile and its induction into the army. At the very least there is an effort on its part to link the issue with the Pressler Amendment and the continues suspension of military supplies to Pakistan by the US. The leak by 'unidentified senior army officers' to THE ASIAN AGE could have been timed to exert pressure on the US to desist from any modification or repeal of the Pressler Amendment enabling Pakistan to take delivery of its F-16 aircraft. The Indian government has consistently sought to obstruct this on the grounds that it will upset the arms balance in the subcontinent. That this is a ridiculous proposition given India's hugely ambitious armament programme is of course another mater. In any case, with reports from Washington that some key figures in government and Congress are now disposed to examine the issue of the repeal or modification of the Pressler law seriously, the use of the Prithvi threat on the part of India cannot be ruled out. However, to appease India with regard to its unrelated demands would simply amount to encouraging it in its unreasonable course. If the decision has indeed been taken to start regular production of the missile and to induct it into the army, there is obviously even less reason than before for the United States to let the Pressler Amendment continue is place or indeed to exert pressure on Pakistan with regard to the M-11 missiles. And if India is using the threat to do so by way of leverage, it should be given a clear signal that this is unacceptable. The Prithvi issue obviously has to be seen in the context of the missile regime. Either India is willing to adopt a regional approach and abide by the minimum necessary to keep the region free from the menace of a missile race or it is not. In the latter case Pakistan will simply have to keep its options open in terms of taking the appropriate measures for its own security.

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